

Message Of Hope



Pope Francis greets the crowd gathered for the Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, Sunday, March 24, 2013. Pope Francis celebrated his first Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square, encouraging people to be humble and young at heart, as tens of thousands joyfully waved olive branches and palm fronds.

(AP Photo/Domenico Stinellis)

Pope opens Holy Week at Vatican on Palm Sunday

FRANCES D'EMILIO
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis celebrated his first Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square, encouraging people to be humble and young at heart and promising to go to a youth jamboree in Brazil in July, while the faithful enthusiastically waved olive branches and braided palm fronds. The square overflowed with

a crowd estimated by the Vatican at 250,000 people. Pilgrims, tourists and Romans jostled each other in an eager effort glimpse Francis as they joined the new pope at the start of solemn Holy Week ceremonies, which lead up to Easter, Christianity's most important day. Keeping with his spontaneous style, the first pope from Latin America broke away sev-

eral times from the text of his prepared homily to encourage the faithful to lead simple lives and resist the temptation to be sad when life's obstacles inevitably come their way.

"Don't let yourselves be robbed of hope! Don't let yourselves be robbed of hope!"

Francis told the crowd, in an apparent reference to the economic difficulties

people are grappling with as they try to find adequate work amid a poor job market in much of the world.

At the end of the two-hour Mass, Francis took off his red vestments, and wearing his plain white cassock and skull cap, climbed into an open-topped popemobile to circle through the excited crowd.

He leaned out to shake hands, kissed and patted

the heads of infants passed to him by bodyguards, and often gave children the thumbs-up sign.

His security detail seemed to be reluctantly dealing with this get-close-to-the-people pontiff, scrambling around the vehicle to pick up this child or that one.

Continued on Page 3

Clashes at Champs-Elysees over French anti-gay marriage protest

**MICHEL EULER
OLEG CETINIC**

PARIS (AP) — Paris police used tear gas and batons to fight crowds who pushed their way onto the landmark Champs-Elysees avenue and toward the presidential palace as part of a huge protest against

Sustained protests led by opposition conservatives in this traditionally Catholic country have eroded support for the draft law in recent months, and organizers hope Sunday's march will swing the Senate debate against it. The first few hours of the

primarily at aggressive youths at the front of the crowd. Protesters of all ages were among those coughing and clutching their stinging eyes. "Hollande, Resignation!" they chanted, before breaking into the French



Anti gay marriage and gay adoption protestors demonstrate, in Paris, Sunday, March. 24, 2013. Thousands of French conservatives, families and activists have converged on the capital to try to stop the country from allowing same-sex couples to marry and adopt children. The lower house of France's parliament approved the "marriage for everyone" bill last month with a large majority, and it's facing a vote in the Senate next month. Both houses are dominated by French President Francois Hollande's Socialist Party and its allies.

(AP Photo/Thibault Camus)

a draft law allowing same-sex couples to marry and adopt children.

Hundreds of thousands of people — conservative activists, schoolchildren with their parents, retirees, priests — converged on the capital Sunday in a last-ditch bid to stop the bill, many bused in from the French provinces.

The violence took protesters and police by surprise, and suggested that the anti-gay marriage protests have become outlets for anger and disappointment in the presidency of Francois Hollande's presidency. The lower house of France's parliament approved the "marriage for everyone" bill last month with a large majority, and it's facing a vote in the Senate next month. Both houses are dominated by Hollande's Socialist Party and its allies.

protest were peaceful. But as it was meant to be winding down, about 100 youths tried to push past police barricades onto the Champs-Elysees, a tree-lined avenue that cuts through central Paris and draws throngs of tourists daily. In an indication of the sensitivity of the issue, protesters had been barred from marching on the Champs.

Police officers wrangled with the youths, some with shaven heads and others wearing hoods or masks, and fired tear gas to force them back. Gaining momentum, more and more protesters took side streets to reach the avenue, blocking a key intersection — and some made it within 100 meters (yards) from the grounds of the president's Elysee Palace.

Police fired more tear gas,

anthem, "La Marseillaise." When Hollande took office in May, most voters supported the idea of gay marriage and few expected it to face much of a challenge.

But disillusionment with the president's failure to stem rising unemployment or revive the economy — a much bigger concern for the French — have fueled resentment at the "marriage for everyone" bill.

An official with the Paris police headquarters said two people were arrested and no injuries were reported in Sunday's clashes.

The police official was not authorized to be publicly named in accordance with police policy.

The official estimated that 300,000 people took part in Sunday's march, slightly less than a similar march in January. □

Miami: Skydive site owner: Men didn't deploy parachutes

**KELLI KENNEDY
Associated Press**

MIAMI (AP) — Two skydivers from Iceland who died during weekend jumps at a popular southwest Florida camp did not deploy their main parachutes, the co-owner of the facility said Sunday.

Deputies found the bodies of a skydiving instructor and a student Saturday after the two didn't return from a jump with a group, setting off an hours-long air and ground search around the Zephyrhills facility, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) northeast of Tampa. Pasco County sheriff's authorities identified the victims as 41-year-old instructor Orvar Arnarson and 25-year-old student Andrimar Pordarson of Iceland. The men jumped separately, not in tandem.

The fact that the men didn't deploy their main parachutes could mean that they lost altitude awareness and didn't know where they were during the dive, which is unusual, said T.K. Hayes, co-owner of Skydive City.

Both men had backup automatic activation devices, which deploy if the main parachutes are not deployed in time.

"Those devices activated on both of them ... but the reserves did not have time to deploy fully," Hayes said. "They were out of the containers but not inflated in time before they impacted." Hayes was at the scene with officials Saturday, sorting through the men's gear to determine whether all parts had been functioning properly.

"Like most accidents, most of the time it's human error," he said. "I doubt there's an equipment problem here, to be honest." But he stressed that authorities are still investigating.

The two men had successfully completed two other jumps Saturday morning with 20 other people. But when they didn't return from their third jump, their disappearance tipped off

a search, Pasco County sheriff's spokeswoman Melanie Snow said.

The bodies were discovered by spotters from the air early Saturday evening in woods south of the Zephyrhills Municipal Airport, Snow said.

The victims were part of a group of about 12 who travel from Iceland to Florida every year to jump, Hayes said.

Arnarson, the instructor, had been to the facility before, but Pordarson had not, Hayes said.

The area is a popular destination for skydivers. Skydive City is a 14-acre (5.7-hectare) property that includes recreational vehicle campgrounds, a tiki bar, cafe and regular shows by a reggae band, according to its website.

Hundreds of skydivers jump each day at the site this time of year. Hayes estimates that overall, the facility assists about 75,000 jumps a year. Accidents are rare, but they happen, he said.

Last year, Dr. T. Elaine McLaughlin died on a jump at Skydive City on New Year's Day after her chute failed to open properly. She was a resident of the Tampa Bay area and practiced family medicine in St. Petersburg.

Last year across the U.S., 19 skydivers died out of 3.1 million jumps, according to the United States Parachute Association.

"As an industry, the safety record continues to improve as the decades go on as we improve training and equipment ... but it's not a fail-safe sport," Hayes said. Last month, near Seattle, dozens of volunteers spent four days searching through snowy weather and fog after a 29-year-old Florida man didn't return from a skydiving jump above Washington state's Cascade foothills. Kurt Ruppert, of Lake City, was wearing a special wing suit with fabric under the arms to allow him to glide like a flying squirrel. □

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Pope opens Holy Week at Vatican on Palm Sunday

Continued from front

At one point, the chief bodyguard, Domenico Giani, was sent back to the mother of a child he had greeted to convey a message from the pontiff, and the ever-tense Giani broke into a smile after his mission was accomplished.

Francis even climbed down from the vehicle, kissed a woman in the crowd and chatted briefly with her, and another man in the crowd leaned over a barrier to squeeze the pontiff on a shoulder — an unheard of familiarity in the previous pontificate of the reserved Benedict XVI.

In keeping with his stress on giving examples of humility, Francis kissed the hand of an elderly woman who had outstretched an arm to him. "There is no doubt that there will be a new spring for the church, a renewal" with this pope, said Sister Emma, an Argentine nun in the crowd.

Palm Sunday recalls Jesus' entry into Jerusalem but its Gospel also recounts how he was betrayed by one of his apostles and ultimately sentenced to death on a cross. Francis presided over the Mass at an altar sheltered by a white canopy on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica. Recalling the triumphant welcome into Jerusalem, Francis said Jesus "awakened so many hopes in the heart, above all among humble, simple, poor, forgotten people, those who don't matter in the eyes of the world." Cardinals, many of them among the electors who chose him to be the Roman Catholic church's first Latin American pope, sat on chairs during the ceremony held under hazy skies on a breezy day. He quoted from Benedict when he told the cardinals that while they are "princes" of the church, their leader is the crucified Christ, a further admonition against attachment to temporal power. The pope ticked off a litany of evils afflicting the world, including wars, "economic conflicts that hit the weakest" as well as corruption. In the final stretch of Benedict's papacy, the Vatican was embarrassed by a leak of documents from the papal apartment, indicating corruption, ambition and rivalries among upper ranks of the Holy See's management. Francis told an off-the-cuff story from his childhood in Argentina. "My grandmother used to tell us children, 'burial shrouds don't have' pockets,'" the pope said, in a variation of "you can't take it with you."



Pope Francis kisses a baby after celebrating his first Palm Sunday Mass, in St. Peter's Square, at the Vatican, Sunday, March 24, 2013. The square overflowed with some 250,000 pilgrims, tourists and Romans eager to join the new pope at the start of solemn Holy Week ceremonies, which lead up to Easter, Christianity's most important day.

(AP Photo/Alessandra Tarantino)

Since his election on March 13, Francis has put the downtrodden and poor at the center of his mission as pope, keeping with the priorities of his Jesuit tradition. In his homily, Francis said Christian joy "isn't born from possessing a lot of things but from having met" Jesus. That same joy should keep people young, he said. "Even at 70, 80, the heart doesn't age" if one is inspired by Christian joy, said the 76-year-old pontiff. The pontiff said he was joyfully looking forward to welcoming young people to Rio de Janeiro for the Catholic Church's World Youth Day. So far, that is the first foreign trip on the calendar of Francis' new papacy. "I'm coming in July," Francis said in remarks after Mass from the esplanade of the basilica. During Mass, at the point when the Gospel recounts the moment of Jesus' death, many faithful knelt on hard cobblestones paving the square, and Francis knelt on a wooden kneeler.

Francis told an off-the-cuff story from his childhood

in Argentina. "My grandmother used to tell us children, 'burial shrouds don't have' pockets,'" the pope said, in a variation of "you can't take it with you."



Kerry confronts Baghdad, warns on Iran flights to Syria

MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press

BAGHDAD/WASHINGTON

(AP) — Just days after the 10th anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry confronted Baghdad for continuing to grant Iran access to its airspace and said Iraq's behavior was raising questions about its reliability as a partner.

Speaking to reporters during a previously unannounced trip to Baghdad, Kerry said that he and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki had engaged in "a very spirited discussion" on the Iranian flights, which U.S. officials believe are ferrying weapons and fighters intended for the embattled Syrian government.

Kerry said the plane shipments — along with material being trucked across Iraqi territory from Iran to Syria — were helping President Bashar Assad's regime cling to power by increasing their ability to strike at Syrian rebels and opposition figures demanding Assad's ouster.

"I made it very clear that

for those of us who are engaged in an effort to see President Assad step down and to see a democratic process take hold ... anything that supports Presi-

separately with Maliki at his office. "And I made it very clear to the Prime Minister that the overflights from Iran are, in fact, helping to sustain President Assad and

U.S. and Iraq. Iraq and Iran claim the flights are carrying humanitarian goods, but American officials say they are confident that the planes are being used to

trucked to Syria from Iran through Iraq, was inconsistent with claims they are only carrying humanitarian supplies. The official said it was in Iraq's interest to prevent the situation in Syria from deteriorating further, particularly as there are fears that al-Qaida-linked extremists may gain a foothold in the country as the Assad regime falters.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to speak publicly on the matter, said there are clear links between al-Qaida linked extremists operating in Syria and militants who are also carrying out terrorist attacks in Iraqi territory with increasing regularity.

Kerry's comments in Baghdad come as U.S. lawmakers are calling for President Barack Obama to do more to stop the bloodshed in Syria, including possible airstrikes against Assad's aircraft fleet.

The Republican chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, Rep. Mike Rogers of Michigan, said Sunday the U.S. should create a "safe zone" in northern Syria that would give the U.S. more leverage with opposition forces.

"This doesn't mean the 101st Airborne Division and ships" are deployed, Rogers told CBS' "Face the Nation." "It means small groups with special capabilities reengaging the opposition so we can vet them, train them, equip them so they can be an effective fighting force."

Last week, Sens. Carl Levin, D-Mich., and John McCain, R-Ariz., asked Obama in a letter to step up U.S. military efforts in the region, including destroying Assad's aircraft using precision airstrikes. □



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, right meets with Iraq's Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, second right, in Baghdad, Iraq, Sunday, March 24, 2013. Kerry confronted Baghdad for continuing to grant Iran access to its airspace and said Iraq's behavior was raising questions about its reliability as a partner.

(AP Photo/Jason Reed, Pool)

dent Assad is problematic," Kerry said at a news conference at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad after meeting

his regime." The overflights in Iraq have long been a source of contention between the

arm the support the Assad regime. The administration is warning Iraq that unless action is taken, Iraq will be excluded from the international discussion about Syria's political future.

U.S. officials say that in the absence of a complete ban on flights, Washington would at least like the planes to land and be inspected in Iraq to ensure that they are carrying humanitarian supplies. Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton secured a pledge from Iraq to inspect the flights last year, but since then only two aircraft have been checked by Iraqi authorities, according to U.S. officials.

One senior U.S. official traveling with Kerry said the sheer number of overflights, which occur "close to daily," along with shipments

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Gun debate: Sides make bold public appeals Sunday

MICHELE SALCEDO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Leading advocates for both sides in the national debate over guns urged voters on Sunday to make their opinion known to lawmakers ahead of critical votes next month in Congress that will determine whether gun rights groups can again thwart efforts to tighten firearms regulations even after the Connecticut school massacre.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Wayne LaPierre, the CEO and executive vice president of the National Rifle Association, an influential gun rights lobbying group, claimed their opposing views on guns have the support of the overwhelming majority of Americans.

Both sides see the next two weeks as critical to the debate, when lawmakers head home to hear from constituents ahead of next month's anticipated Senate vote on gun control legislation drafted in response to the December elementary school shootings in Newtown, Connecticut, that left 20 children and six educators dead. Bloomberg, a former Republican-turned-independent, has just sunk \$12

million for Mayors Against Illegal Guns to run television ads and phone banks in 13 states urging voters to tell their senators to pass legislation requiring universal background checks for gun buyers.

"We demanded a plan and then we demanded

that legislation would likely be debated in his chamber next month that will include expanded federal background checks, tougher laws and stiffer sentences for gun trafficking and increased school safety grants.

Reid dropped aban on

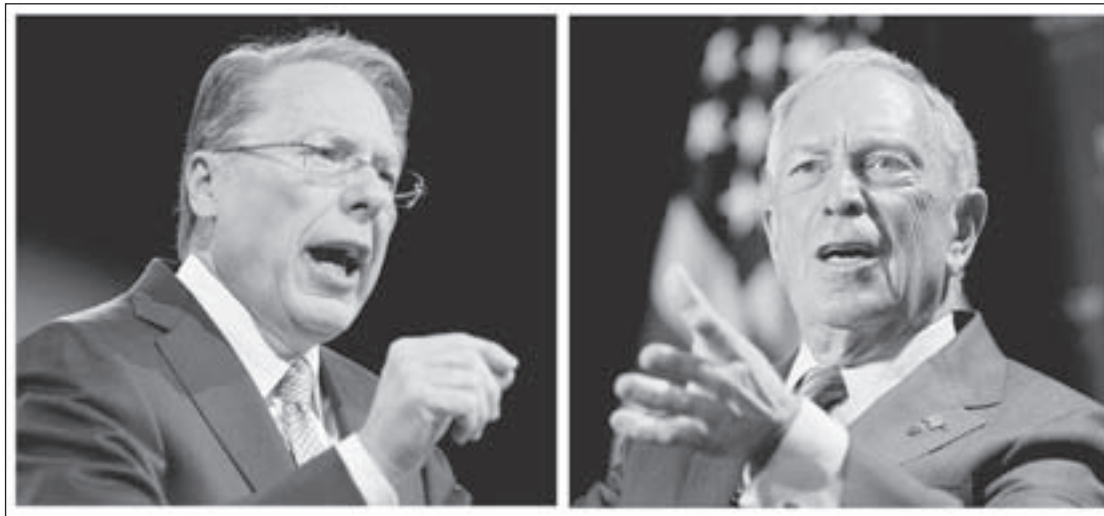
ternet address Saturday.

Still, the amendment banning assault weapons is unlikely to be passed by the Democratic-controlled Senate where it takes 60 votes to advance measures to a final vote. About a dozen centrist Democratic senators from rural,

ing three months ago at Sandy Hook Elementary School, Bloomberg said it would be a great tragedy if Congress, through inaction, lost the moment to make the country safer from gun violence. Bloomberg said that 90 percent of Americans and 80 percent of National Rifle Association members support universal background checks for gun purchases.

But the NRA's LaPierre counters that universal background checks are "a dishonest premise" because mental health records are exempt from databases and criminals won't submit to the checks. Background checks, he said, are a "speed bump" in the system that "slows down the law-abiding and does nothing for anybody else."

"The shooters in Tucson, in Aurora, in Newtown, they're not going to be checked. They're unrecognizable," LaPierre said. He was referring to the 2011 shooting in a Tucson shopping center that killed six and wounded 13, including former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, who is now an outspoken gun control advocate, and the July assault in a suburban Denver movie theater that killed 12 and injured 70. □



Wayne LaPierre, left, CEO of the National Rifle Association, makes remarks at CPAC 2013, in National Harbor, Md.; and at right, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg speaks in Washington. Two of the loudest voices in the gun debate say it's up to voters now to make their position known to Congress. LaPierre and Bloomberg claim their views on guns have the support of the overwhelming number of Americans.

(AP Photos, Ron Sachs, Manuel Balce Ceneta)

a vote. We've got the plan, we're going to get the vote. And now it's incumbent on us to make our voices heard," Bloomberg said in an interview on NBC television's "Meet the Press."

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said Thursday

assault-style weapons from the bill, fearing it would sink the broader bill. But Reid has said that he would allow the ban to be voted on separately as an amendment to the bill. President Barack Obama called for a vote on the assault weapons ban in his radio and In-

Republican-leaning states are wary about supporting such restrictions. The legislation expanding background checks has better prospects in the Senate, but faces stiff opposition in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives. Recalling the horrific shoot-

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Mom, 2 sons improving after airport sign tragedy

KATHY WINGARD
Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Alabama
(AP) — A woman and two

of her sons were improving at hospitals on Sunday after they were seriously injured when a flight information billboard fell on them at an airport.

A third son was killed Friday when the electronic board, weighing at least 300 pounds (135 kilograms), fell at the Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport. The boys' mother, Heather Bresette, had broken ankles and a crushed pelvis. She had surgeries over the weekend and was getting better, University Hospital spokeswoman Nicole Wyatt said. However, she was still in intensive care and unconscious.

"She does not know that her baby is dead," said the family's priest, the Rev. Don Farnan.

The Bresettes, a family of

seven, took a weeklong vacation in Destin, Florida, and were about to fly home to Overland Park, Kansas, when the sign fell.



A flight information sign at the newly renovated Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport in Birmingham, Ala., fell on a mother and her three children this weekend, killing one child and injuring the mother and her two other children.

(AP Photo/Tamika Moore, AL.com)

Luke Bresette, 10, was killed. His brother, 5-year-old Tyler, suffered a concussion but was expected to be released from a children's hospital. His 8-year-old brother, Sam, had a broken leg and nose.

Luke was the middle child of the five. The father, Ryan Bresette, and another son and daughter, were at the airport but not injured.

During their vacation, the family swam in the Gulf of Mexico and Luke went parasailing for the first time. "His dad said he was thrilled. He was an adventurous kid. He loved sports," said Farnan, a priest at St.

Thomas More in Kansas City, Missouri.

After the sign fell, it took six people to lift the large board and a dozen people to hold it up while first responders administered aid.

Officials were investigating how the sign fell at the newly renovated airport and took down an identical billboard on Saturday.

The renovated concourse opened March 13. It was part of an ongoing \$200 million upgrade of Birmingham's airport. The construction began in June 2011 and is being overseen by Brasfield & Gorrie Global Services Group. □

Ellis Island museum 'not likely' to re-open in 2013

DEEPTI HAJELA
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Ellis Island Immigration Museum, which sustained severe damage to its infrastructure from the surging waters of Superstorm Sandy, is not expected to re-open to the public this year, the National Park Service said. The Oct. 29 storm bought water levels as high as 8 feet (2.4 meters) to Ellis Island, adjacent to the home of the Statue of Liberty, destroying boilers and electrical systems.

The museum "is under repair from storm damage and will not likely be open in 2013," the park

service said Friday, as it announced that security screening for visitors to the Statue of Liberty would be moving to temporary facilities on Ellis Island.

Spokeswoman Linda Friar told The Associated Press on Sunday that the site was still without power, which was continuing to have a negative impact on the physical condition of the building. Re-opening it to the public is a multi-step process, she said, which includes getting the power back, restoring the physical condition of the building and then making sure the museum contents are back in place. □

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Detroit manager to listen, then assess priorities

COREY WILLIAMS

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP)—A bankruptcy lawyer and turnaround expert tasked with reviving Detroit's beleaguered finances could be greeted by a crowd of protesters as he arrives at work Monday, then plans to spend his first

who represented auto-maker Chrysler LLC during its successful restructuring, as the man for an even larger fix-it task. State law allows emergency managers to negotiate labor contracts and deals with vendors. He can sell off city assets to raise money and

serious financial problem is to stop fueling the fire by spending money you don't have," McTevia said.

Early success could be crucial for Orr to win over citizens who are skeptical about whether an emergency manager really is needed, bankruptcy expert Doug Bernstein said. Such victories can be as simple as getting "street lights on and get police on the street," he said.

"Public safety is paramount," said Bernstein, managing partner of the Banking, Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights Practice Group for the Michigan-based Plunkett Cooney law firm. "This is such a hot area where people are passionate about whether there should or not be an

emergency manager. It would likely go a long way to convince those who are against, or otherwise opposed to the concept, that this can lead to something good or rehabilitation for the city."

Beyond public safety, a host of other problems await Orr — including health care costs, pension concessions, privatizing services if necessary and, finally, weighing whether the only real solution is municipal bankruptcy.

"Maybe he means he doesn't have the details of it yet, but I hope he has some idea what the major issues are," Wayne State University law professor Peter Henning said of Orr.

Continued on page 27



Washington-based attorney Kevyn Orr speaks at a news conference in Detroit. Orr starts work Monday, March 25, 2013, as Detroit's emergency manager and the turnaround expert says his first tasks will be reviewing the city's financial data and listening.

day meeting with some city officials who for months fought against creating his job at all.

Kevyn Orr is under no illusions that he'll be treated as a hero when he begins his duties as the Motor City's emergency manager, an appointment that makes Detroit the largest city in the U.S. ever put under state control. But while there are plenty of sacrifices — including Orr's resignation from a powerful law firm where he was a partner — Orr says he is motivated by the opportunity to engineer one of the greatest fiscal turnarounds in U.S. history.

"I'm a worker bee. I'm not a honey bee," Orr, 54, told The Associated Press in an interview. "My set-in-stone plan is to get to the office ... and start meeting folks." A review team spent two months scrutinizing Detroit's books and reported to Gov. Rick Snyder that the city was in a financial emergency, citing its long-term debt of more than \$14 billion and \$327 million budget deficit.

Snyder agreed and earlier this month announced Orr, a Washington attorney

cut the salaries of elected officials to save money. Opponents, led by a vocal group of Detroit clergy and residents say the law snatches power from elected officials. Detroit is a heavily Democratic city with a predominantly black population Snyder is a Republican. A prominent national civil rights leader, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, has called for mass demonstrations and protests outside City Hall.

Orr insists he has no immediate plan of action other than getting a sense of the city's priorities.

"You really want to look into the swimming pool to see if there is water in there before you dive in," said James Spiotto, a municipal bankruptcy expert at the Chicago-based Chapman and Cutler law firm.

But turnaround specialist James McTevia said he finds it hard to believe that Orr enters the job without any idea about what he intends to do. McTevia, who has closely followed the Detroit situation, suggests that one of his first steps should be an immediate freeze on debt spending.

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Saplings from Anne Frank's tree take root in US

PAMELA ENGEL
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A tree that gave Anne Frank hope as the Jewish teenager hid from the Nazis for more than two years is taking root at nearly a dozen sites across the United States in hopes of promoting tolerance. Eleven saplings grown from seeds taken from the chestnut tree that stood outside the Amsterdam home in

which Frank and her family hid are being distributed to museums, schools, parks and Holocaust remembrance centers through a project led by The Anne Frank Center USA. The first sapling will be planted in April at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis. Other saplings are being sent to a New York City park honoring Sept. 11, 2001, victims, a Little Rock,



Mary Fortney, learning resource development manager at the Indianapolis Children's Museum, looks over chestnut saplings from the tree outside Anne Frank's hiding spot in Amsterdam being cared for in the museum's greenhouse in Indianapolis. (AP Photo/Michael Conroy)

Arkansas, school that was the center of a desegregation battle and sites in Massachusetts, California, Idaho, Michigan and Washington state. □

Endangered giraffe born at U.S. conservation site

GREENWICH, Connecticut (AP) — A rare, nearly 6-foot(1.8-meter)-tall giraffe listed as an endangered subspecies has been born in a Connecticut conservation center. The Greenwich Time reports that Petal, a 6-year-old Rothschild giraffe gave birth on Friday to a female calf as a group of other giraffes and staff at the LEO Zoological Conservation Center watched. Marcella Leone, founder and director of the center, said the young animal

is curious, approaching humans early on in its first days of life. When fully grown, the newborn, who will mingle with a group of five giraffes, which includes two pregnant giraffes, could reach 18 feet (5.4 meters) in height. The calf is the first born at the off-exhibit conservation center. Rothschild giraffes were named and described by Lord Walter Rothschild, a British zoologist, after an expedition to East Africa in the early 1900s. □

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Syrian opposition in disarray as leader bows out



Syrian opposition coalition leader Mouaz al-Khatib speaks during a press conference at Villa Madama, Rome. The leader of the Western-based Syrian opposition coalition has resigned, citing frustrations with the body's ability to advance the fight against President Bashar Assad. Khatib said in a statement posted on his Facebook page Sunday that he would continue to serve the opposition's cause outside of the "the official institutions."

(AP Photo/Riccardo De Luca)

BEN HUBBARD
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria's opposition plunged into disarray Sunday as its president quit and its military chief refused to recognize the newly elected prime minister of an interim government for rebel-held areas. The moves reflected deep splits in the body the U.S. and its allies hope will emerge as the united face of the opposition and advance the fight to topple President Bashar Assad's regime.

The missteps of the opposition's mostly exile political leadership drew little notice inside Syria, where rebel fighters dismissed it as ineffective and pushed ahead with their offensive to gain ground near the country's southern border with Jordan. Nearby, the Israeli military in the Golan Heights responded to fire by shooting back at targets inside Syria.

The first blow to the opposition Syrian National Coalition was the surprise resignation of its president, who said he was quitting in frustration over what he called lack of international

support and constraints imposed by the body itself.

Mouaz al-Khatib, who rose to prominence as a preacher in Damascus' most famous mosque, said in a statement posted on his Facebook page that he was making good on an earlier vow to quit if undefined "red lines" were crossed.

"I am keeping my promise today and announcing my resignation from the National Coalition so that I can work with freedom that is not available inside the official institutions," he said. He also blamed world powers for not offering Syria's rebels the support they demand and complained that "international and regional parties" tried to push the Coalition toward negotiations with the Assad regime — something most members refuse.

"All that has happened to the Syrian people — from destruction of infrastructure, to the arrest of tens of thousands, to the displacement of hundreds of thousands, to other tragedies — is not enough for an international decision to allow the Syrian people

to defend themselves," the statement said.

Despite electing a new, U.S.-educated prime minister last week to head a planned interim government, the Coalition has failed to make much of a mark inside Syria, where hundreds of independent rebel brigades are fighting a civil war against Assad's forces.

Reflecting the growing disension over that move,

the head of the Coalition's military branch, Gen. Salim Idris, said his group refused to recognize the new prime minister, a little-known IT professional from Texas, because he lacked broad support among the opposition.

"For the purpose of giving power to a prime minister to unite the revolutionary forces and lead the Syrian revolution toward certain victory, we unequivocally

declare that the Free Syrian Army ... conditions its support and cooperation on the achievement of a political agreement on the name of a prime minister," Idris said in an online video. An aide to Idris, Louay Al-mokdad, said many prominent Syrian opposition figures opposed the election of Ghassan Hitto, who received 35 out of 48 votes cast by the Coalition's 63 active members. □



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Police say no sign of 3rd party in Berezovsky death

C. VINOGRAD
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — There was no evidence to suggest anyone else was involved in the death of Boris Berezovsky, the self-exiled Russian tycoon who went from Kremlin kingmaker to fiery critic, British police said Sunday. With an investigation under way, police are treating the death of Berezovsky — who fled to Britain in the early 2000s after a bitter falling out with Russian President Vladimir Putin — as unexplained. But the former oligarch survived assassination attempts and recently faced financial difficulties, prompting speculation as to whether his death was part of a conspiracy — or suicide.

Police said Sunday it would be wrong to speculate on Berezovsky's cause of death pending the results of an autopsy, but said they had no evidence to suggest anyone else was involved.

"We are at the early stages of the investigation and we are retaining an open mind as we progress," said Detective Chief Inspector Kevin Brown. "The investigation team is building a picture of the last days of Mr. Berezovsky's life, speaking to close friends and family to gain a better understanding of his state of mind."

Police released some details on the circumstances that triggered their investigation into his demise and a subsequent check for

hazardous materials at a home he stayed at in Ascot, a town 40 kilometers (25 miles) west of London where Berezovsky's body was found on Saturday. A call came into police from the local ambulance service at 3:23 p.m. GMT

tycoon's body on the floor. The employee was the only person in the house when Berezovsky's body was discovered, police said. Members of the ex-oligarch's family arrived at the home while the paramedic was on scene.



British police officers cordon off a road near a residence in Ascot, a town 40 kilometers (25 miles) west of London, Sunday, March 24, 2013. Boris Berezovsky, 67, a self-exiled and outspoken former Russian oligarch who had a bitter falling out with Russian President Vladimir Putin, was found dead Saturday in south-east England. Thames Valley police said his death was being treated as unexplained.

(AP Photo/Leferis Pitarakis)

(11:23 a.m. EDT) Saturday saying a man had been found dead, Thames Valley Police said in a statement on Sunday.

The police said an employee of Berezovsky told how he had called an ambulance after becoming concerned for Berezovsky's welfare and forced open a bathroom door locked from the inside to find the

After a paramedic declared Berezovsky dead and left the scene, a device measuring the paramedic's exposure to radiation was triggered, police said. "Officers found nothing of concern in the property and we are now progressing the investigation as normal," a statement from police said earlier, adding that the majority of the cordon put in place

around the property has now been lifted.

Berezovsky — who had survived a number of assassination attempts — amassed a fortune through oil and automobiles during Russia's chaotic privatization of state assets following the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s. Once a member of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's inner circle, Berezovsky fell out with Yeltsin's successor, Putin, and fled Britain in the early 2000s to escape fraud charges that he said were politically motivated.

He became a strident and frequent critic of Putin, accusing the leader of ushering in a dictatorship, and accused the security services of organizing 1999 apartment house bombings in Moscow and two other Russian cities that became a pretext for Russian troops to sweep into Chechnya for the second war there in half a decade. Putin's spokesman acknowledged Sunday that the Russian president considered Berezovsky an enemy.

We know for certain that he spared no expense in support of processes, within Russia and beyond, that could be said to have been directed against Russia and Putin," spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on the independent cable television channel Rain. □

Former rebels besiege Libya PM's office

ESAM MOHAMED
Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — About 200 former rebel fighters in Libya have besieged the prime minister's office, demanding that he resign. The militia members, who did not threaten violence, want Prime Minister Ali Zidan to step down in accor-

dance with a political isolation law banning members of the former regime from political life.

He served as an ambassador under Moammar Gadhafi, who was ousted in an eight-month civil war. The law is controversial because it bans anyone who

worked with Gadhafi from 1969 until he was killed in 2011.

The prime minister's convoy was seen moving around the capital, Tripoli, last week with more security guards than usual — after an influx of militias from around the country. □

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Cyprus' bailout talks stall on banks: deadline Monday

DON MELVIN
JUERGEN BAETZ
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Tense talks between Cyprus and its international creditors on how the country can secure a 10 billion euro bailout were stuck Sunday due to disagreements over how to shrink the bloated Cypriot banking sector, an official said.

Without a deal by Monday night, the tiny Mediterranean island nation faces the prospect of a bankruptcy, which could force it to abandon the euro currency and spur turmoil in the 17-nation eurozone of 300 million people.

Nicosia is trying to find ways to raise 5.8 billion euros so that it can qualify for the 10 billion euro rescue loan package from the International Monetary Fund and the other eurozone countries. The European Central Bank has threatened to stop providing emergency funding to Cyprus' banks as of Tuesday if there is no agreement on how to raise that 5.8 billion euros.

With the clock ticking, Cypriot and European officials pursued a marathon negotiation in Brussels on Sunday, and the atmosphere was very tense.

The eurozone and the IMF are insisting that Cyprus implements a yet more radical restructuring of its banking sector that in-

volves breaking up the nation's biggest financial institute, Bank of Cyprus, said the Cypriot official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't allowed to divulge details from the closed-doors meetings.

Cyprus has already decided to restructure the country's second largest lender, Laiki, which suffered heavy losses after being exposed to toxic Greek debt and other bad assets.

But the international creditors seek a yet more fundamental restructuring of the outsized financial system, which is worth up to eight times the country's gross domestic product of about 18 billion euros. That would reduce the amount of bailout loans the country needs. They also say that the country's business model of attracting foreign investors, among them many Russians, with low taxes and lax financial regulation has backfired and must be upended.

Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades and his finance minister were meeting with representatives of the so-called troika of international creditors—the International Monetary Fund, the European Central Bank, and the European Commission, the EU's executive arm, to work out final details, officials said.

The negotiations dragged



Dutch Finance Minister and chief of the eurogroup Jeroen Dijsselbloem chairs an emergency eurogroup meeting in Brussels on Sunday, March 24, 2013. After failing for a week to find a solution at home to a crisis that could force it into bankruptcy, Cypriot politicians were turning to the European Union on Sunday in a last-ditch effort to help the island nation forge a viable plan to secure an international bailout.

(AP Photo/Geert Vanden Wijngaert)

on, and the start of the meeting of the Eurogroup of the bloc's finance ministers was postponed by three hours, until 9 p.m. local time.

Cyprus has "to fulfill a difficult mission to save the Cypriot economy and avert a disorderly default threatening the economy if there is no final deal for the loan agreement," government spokesman Christos Syliaides said in a statement Sunday.

Cyprus needs significantly more than the 10 billion euro bailout, but the international creditors fear that more loans would raise the country's debt to an unsustainable level. For that reason, Cyprus has been told it must raise the additional money by itself. □

US:

Expatriate abducted in Nigeria

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — The U.S. says an expatriate has been kidnapped from the West African nation's commercial capital, and is warning Americans in the country to be cautious. The U.S. consulate general in Lagos issued the security warning Sunday.

It says the kidnapping occurred Saturday night in Victoria Island, a part of Lagos where many expatriates live.

It did not give the victim's nationality or other details

of the abduction.

Local police could not immediately be reached for comment and national police spokesman Frank Mba said he had not received reports of a kidnapping.

Kidnappings for ransom are common in Nigeria, but most have occurred in its oil-rich southern delta, and Lagos is not considered an abduction hotspot. Nigeria's Sahelian north is also starting to see kidnappings linked to radical Islamic groups. □

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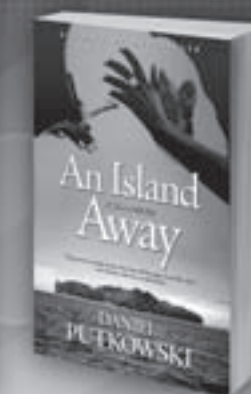
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Central African Republic president overthrown

**H. MARBOUA
KRISTA LARSON
Associated Press**

BANGUI, Central African Republic (AP) — Rebels overthrew Central African Republic's president of a decade on Sunday, seizing the presidential palace and declaring that the desperately poor country has "opened a new page in its history." The country's president fled the capital, while extra French troops moved to secure the airport, officials said.

The rebels' invasion of the capital came just two months after they had signed a peace agreement that would have let President Francois Bozize serve until 2016. That deal unraveled in recent days, prompting the insurgents' advance into Bangui and Bozize's departure to a still unpublicized location.

Witnesses and an adviser to Bozize said rebel trucks were traveling throughout the town on Sunday hours after the palace was seized. Former colonial power France confirmed the developments, issuing a statement that said French President Francois Hollande "has taken note of the departure of President Francois Bozize."

"Central African Republic has just opened a new page in its history," said a communique signed by Justin Kombo Moustapha, secretary-general of the alliance of rebel groups known as Seleka.

He declined to say where the president had gone. The last public news of Bozize's whereabouts came Friday, when state radio announced he had returned from a visit to South Africa. Coverseas Worldwide Assistance, a Swiss-based crisis management firm that has contacts on the ground,



Francois Bozize, president of the Central African Republic, speaks to the media at the presidential palace in Bangui, Central African Republic.

(AP Photo/Ben Curtis)

myriad armed groups. The rebels reached the outskirts of Bangui late Saturday. Heavy gunfire echoed through the city Sunday as the fighters made their way to the presidential palace, though the president was not there at the time. "Bozize left the city this morning," said Maximin Olouamat, a Bozize adviser.

said it believed Bozize was headed toward neighboring Congo. Bangui is located along the Oubangui River that separates the two countries. Congolese government spokesman Lambert Mende, however, said he had no knowledge of Bozize crossing into Congo. U.S. State Department

spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said in a statement Sunday that the United States was "deeply concerned about a serious deterioration in the security situation" in Central African Republic.

"We urgently call on the Seleka leadership which has taken control of Bangui to establish law and order in the city and to restore basic services of electricity and water," the statement said.

Rebels from several armed groups that have long opposed Bozize joined forces in December and began seizing towns across the sparsely populated north. They threatened at the time to march on Bangui, but ultimately halted their advance and agreed to engage in peace talks in Libreville, the capital of Gabon.

A deal was signed Jan. 11 that allowed Bozize to finish his term, which expires in 2016, but the rebels soon began accusing the president of failing to fulfill promises made.

They demanded Bozize send home South African forces who were helping bolster the country's military. They also sought to integrate some 2,000 rebel fighters into Central African Republic's armed forces. Earlier this month, the rebels again took control of two towns and threatening to advance on the capital. Late Saturday, Bangui was plunged into darkness after fighters cut power to much of the city. State radio went dead, and fearful residents cowered in their homes. □

Egypt's president warns may move to protect nation

**HAMZA HENDAWI
Associated Press**

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's president delivered a stern warning to his opponents on Sunday, saying he may be close to taking unspecified measures to "protect this nation" two days after supporters of his Muslim Brotherhood and opposition protesters fought street battles in the worst bout of political violence in three months. Nearly 200 people were injured in Friday's violence, some seriously, outside the headquarters of the Brotherhood, Egypt's dominant political group. "If I have to do what is necessary to protect this nation I will, and I am afraid that I may be close to doing so," a visibly angry Morsi said in an animated speech to the opening session of a conference on women's rights.

"I will do so very, very soon. Sooner than those trying to shake the image of this nation think," said the Islamist leader who took office in June as the country's first freely elected president. "Let us not be dragged into an area where I will take a harsh decision," he warned.

While not naming any one opposition group or critic in particular, his comments were the strongest hint to date that he believes the parties and politicians grouped in the National Salvation Front, the main opposition coalition, were directly behind the violence. □



Hyatt's renovated Ruinas del Mar and new concept Mexicado unveiled!

PALM BEACH - Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort, Spa & Casino unveil their renovated restaurant Ruinas del Mar and their new concept of Mexicado. The family-friendly restaurant will be the first for the island and also the first for the Hyatt brand. It will feature traditional and contemporary Mexican cuisine alongside a dedicated tequila selection. Among other improvements Hyatt

unveil the refurbished Ruinas del Mar, its signature restaurant.

It was a pleasant evening at Hyatt Hotel, along with their special guests including the Minister of Education and Justice Mr. Arthur Dowers.

During this reception Mrs. Geraldine Coutinho-Meyers, Associate Director of Sales and Mr. Drew Carnahan gave a speech of the latest developments and



were proud of the results. The staff will continuously strive to offer their guests the best possible experience.

Some of the favorites from the attendees included the local mushroom cappuccino and cedar plank salmon from Ruinas del Mar, filet mignon with chil-tomate salsa and shrimp Acapulco from Mexicado.

The specialty action stations included a guacamole presentation, baked brie with local honey served right from our hearth oven that is located in the restaurant, and a tequila informational booth manned by our tequila expert on staff, Hubert Yarzagaray.

Mexicado beverage offerings included specialties such as sangria and margaritas, as well as a wine station featuring a variety from our wine list.

Attendees were able to see for the first time the enhancements from our recent renovation. These include an addition of a shaded deck that is great for pre or post dinner cocktails and provides a nice



shaded area as a waiting area for our popular Sunday Brunch, an expanded buffet area to improve the flow of this area which is utilized for breakfast and Sunday Brunch, incorporation of an existing hearth oven in to Ruinas del Mar, a comprehensive state of the art sound and lighting

package, the addition of the custom made tequila bar in Mexicado, and complete new furniture layout, all of which was custom made specifically for this project

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Mr. Lawrence and Mrs. So-

phia Stern of Palm Beach Garden, Florida as a Goodwill Ambassadors.

Mr. Michael and Mrs. Brenda Allosso of Tewksbury, Massachusetts as a Distinguished Visitors.

Mr. Albert and Mrs. Barbara Poma of Chesterfield, Michigan as a Goodwill Ambassadors.

Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Jodi Devivo of Wellington, Florida as a Goodwill Ambassadors.

Mr. John and Mrs. Karen Harvie of Naples, Florida as a Goodwill Ambassadors.

The honorees are members of Divi Phoenix and have been enjoying the Island every year. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-20 years consecutive years.

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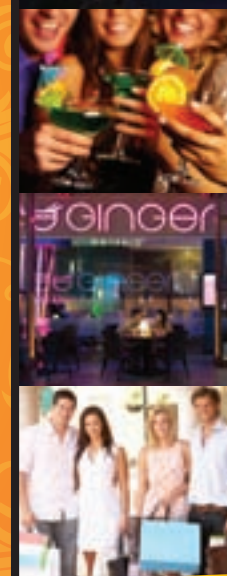


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CASINO AND SHOPS

Florida State has an eye on Aruban swimmer Jemal Le Grand

ORANJESTAD - In the eve of the 2013 NCAA Swimming & Diving Championships, Florida State coach Neil Harper is still working the recruiting, and has landed a big verbal commitment from one of the biggest remaining available men's recruits: Aruban Olympian Jemal le Grand. Le Grand finished 40th in the men's 100 freestyle, swimming a 51.86. He trains with the Davie Nadadores and competes for Sagemont High School, where he is a two-time All-Broward selection. He was the Florida 1A State Runner up in the 200 free with a 1:38.76 and the 100 free in 45.21.

His best 100 long course free converts to about a 45.2 in yards, so that's

recruiting class, the big recruit is Jason Coombs, who himself is 45.0 in the

in the fall Jason McCormick, yet another 45.0 freestyler who also goes 20.35 in the 50. The Seminoles are reloading their freestyle relays this year, and they're doing a really good job of taking the in-state recruiting battle

to the Florida Gators. Le Grand's commitment won't become official until April 17th, when the regular signing period opens up for swimming and he can pen his name upon a letter of intent. □



Aruban Olympian Jemal le Grand

a pretty true conversion. As an update on where Florida State sits in this

100 free but specializes in the breaststrokes with a 54.89. They also signed

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onto the dance floor! Starting at 10 a.m. the tournament takes place at Palm Beach right in front of Bugaloe Beach Bar. Not only you can win some awesome prizes, but the event will combine a great day of fun with fundraising for Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad. This non-profit organization helps families in Aruba, living in poverty, meet their basic needs.

The Food Bank, F.P.N.C. biggest project, provides food, clothing and furniture for these families. Make sure you sign up for a fun day with your friends, siblings or colleagues at www.bugaloe.com and mark the date in your calendar today! □

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Sweet Spot

TOM WITHERS

The Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) -- Indiana's season, the one that's supposed to finish with confetti falling and nets coming down, was minutes from ending in shock and disappointment. The Hoosiers were on the brink. As the clock ticked down, coach Tom Crean wouldn't allow himself to think about defeat, so his mind wandered elsewhere. "That's when you just pray," he said. Request answered.

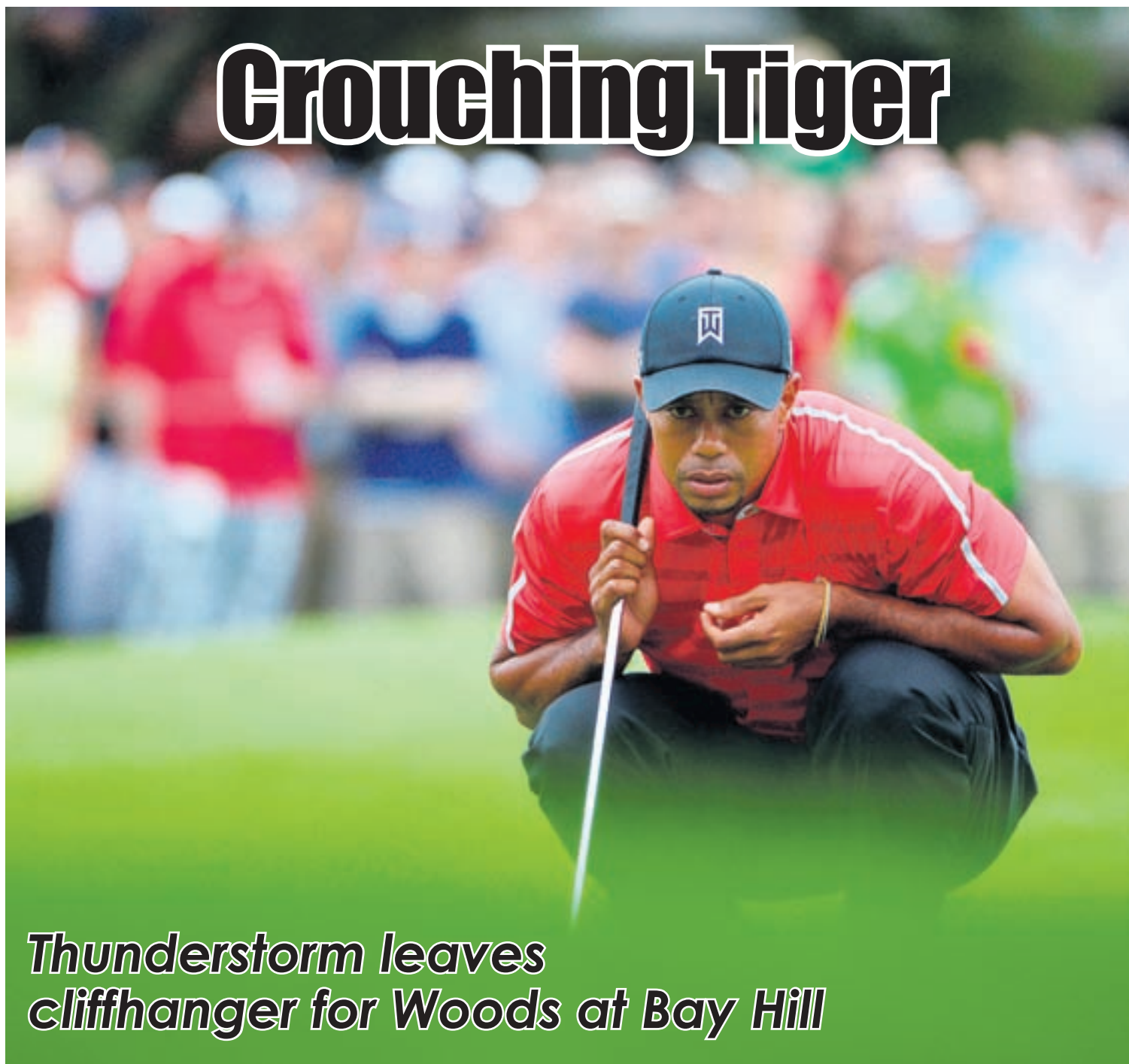


Iowa State guard Bubu Palo (1) blocks a shot by Ohio State guard Shannon Scott in the NCAA college basketball tournament Sunday March 24, 2013, in Dayton, Ohio. (AP Photo/Skip Peterson)

Victor Oladipo hit a 3-pointer with 14 seconds remaining and the top-seeded Hoosiers, unable to stop Temple star Khalif Wyatt for most of the game, shut him down in the final three minutes for a 58-52 win on Sunday in the East Regional. Trailing by four with 2:56 left, the Hoosiers (29-6) closed with a 10-0 run and advanced to the round of 16 for the second straight year. After stopping to tell Temple's players they're as good as any Big Ten team, Crean, his red tie askew and his hair messed, was overcome by emotion. "That," he said, "was relief."

Continued on Page 21

Crouching Tiger



Thunderstorm leaves cliffhanger for Woods at Bay Hill

Tiger Woods lines up his putt on the second green during the final round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament in Orlando, Fla., Sunday, March 24, 2013.

(AP Photo/Phelan M. Ebenhack)

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

ORLANDO, Florida (AP)

— Tiger Woods is going to have to wait one more day to try to reclaim No. 1 in the world.

Moments after Woods made a 10-foot birdie putt on the second hole, a vicious thunderstorm packing gusts that topped out at 62 mph interrupted the final round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational and wiped out play until Monday.

The storm dumped nearly 1

1/2 inches on Bay Hill and formed small ponds in the fairways — there was even a fish in the middle of the 18th fairway. The wind toppled the TV tower behind the 10th green, which was a pile of metal poles, wood, mesh netting and had a stationary camera in the middle of it all.

About an hour after a tornado warning expired, officials said they would need time to clean up the course and let it drain. The final round was to resume at 10 a.m. Monday.

Woods is going after his eighth win at Bay Hill, which would return him to No. 1 in the world ranking for the first time since the last week of October in 2010. He hit all of six shots on Sunday, enough to build a three-shot lead over Rickie Fowler, Keegan Bradley, John Huh and Ken Duke. "At least we got a little activity in today, so we're not completely stagnant," Woods said before leaving. "We've dealt with this before."

There was plenty of action

on a short day, none more bizarre than Sergio Garcia. The Spaniard's tee shot on the 10th hole somehow came to rest about 15 feet up in an oak tree, sitting between two large branches. Garcia used a cart to jump into the tree, and after a few minutes, hit a one-handed, back-handed shot back to the fairway, before jumping some 8 feet back to the ground.

Continued on Page 18

Thunderstorm leaves cliffhanger at Bay Hill

Continued from Page 17

William McGirt was playing his shot from the fairway bunker on the other side and had no idea what Garcia was doing.

"I knew they were looking around the tree," he said. "I didn't know they were looking in the tree. I looked over and Sergio is up in the air, and I'm trying to figure out what in the hell he's going to do. He called for a club. He's hugging the tree. And the ball comes flying out."

"Are you kidding me?"

Two holes later, the horn sounded. McGirt said Garcia handed him the scorecard and said, "I'm out of here." Garcia earlier had taken a 9 on the par-5 sixth hole.

Billy Horschel hit three tee shots in to the water on the sixth hole and made an 11. Attribute that to the wind, which was gusting hard when the leaders teed off. Mark Russell, the tour's vice president of competition, said officials discussed whether to play early Sun-

day from two tees to try to beat the storms. He said NBC Sports was involved in the discussions — Woods

so it defeats our television partners," he said. "They wanted to take a chance. They've been involved in

Woods won at Torrey Pines on a Monday when the Farmers Insurance Open lost a day to fog in San Di-

day.

It will be the third Monday finish in the 35-year history of this tournament.

The storm lasted about two hours, enough time to do plenty of damage. Tournament director Scott Wellington said his staff was just starting a full inspection.

"We had some TV cameras go down," Wellington said. "We had some fencing and so forth. All of the big structures to my knowledge — I have not been out there yet — are OK. But we want to make sure they're sound before we put people in them. We have some other structures, smaller structures, tents and so forth that did come down."

Lawn chairs were toppled along the 18th fairway, where fans had been anticipating a big finish with Woods in the lead. Two chairs had blown into a bunker on the 14th, and seedlings from oak trees were scattered across several greens. Bunkers were washed out.

An osprey snagged a fish along the 18th and couldn't hold on. A fan ran across the fairway to get the fish out of the rough, and then dove headfirst across the 4-inch deep puddle in the fairway, dropping the fish. It swam for about 3 feet before going motionless.

Russell said that while storms were in the forecast for Sunday afternoon, tournament and TV executives thought there was a chance it would go north and south. Instead, it took a direct hit on Bay Hill.

"This thing was moving fast, and if we got shut down for an hour, hour-and-a-half, we could still finish," Russell said. "We wouldn't have a problem there. But we got the very worst of it."

And so the wait continues for Woods, who is going after his third win this year. Along with trying to reclaim No. 1 from Rory McIlroy, he can tie a PGA Tour record by winning Bay Hill for the eighth time. Sam Snead won the Greater Greensboro Open eight times. □



Lightning strikes in the distance as spectators leave the course after play was suspended due to an approaching severe thunderstorm during the final round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament in Orlando, Fla., Sunday March 24, 2013.

(AP Photo/Phelan M. Ebenhack)

going for the win, with Fowler at his side is sure to boost ratings — and they rolled the dice.

"If we played early, it was going to be a tape-delay situation. People were going to know who won before it came on television,

several situations where we played early and it didn't rain. It was just unfortunate."

This marks the third time this year on the PGA Tour that a tournament finished one day later because of weather.

ego. The Tournament of Champions at Kapalua didn't start until Monday because of unusually high wind, and the 54-hole event was completed some 29 hours after the opening tee shot. Dustin Johnson won on a Tues-



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Maria Sharapova reaches 4th round at Key Biscayne

STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

KEY BISKEYNE, Florida (AP)

— Mired in a marathon game midway through the opening set, Maria Sharapova wore down her opponent with characteristic resolve and relentlessness, then won the last

Her pivotal moment Sunday came at 3-all in the first set. The next game went to deuce seven times, with Sharapova repeatedly erasing a deficit, until Vesnina dumped a weary second serve into the net on break point.

"That was a very important

Biscayne title and third in a row, defeated No. 254-ranked Somdev Devvarman 6-2, 6-4. Djokovic next faces No. 15-seeded Tommy Haas, who beat No. 19 Alexandr Dolgoplov 6-3, 6-2.

Haas turns 35 next month and is playing at Key Biscayne for the 12th time.

"You can always expect Tommy to fight and try his best," Djokovic said. "So I know what to expect. It's going to be a tough match."

Among the seeded women to lose were No. 6 Angelique Kerber, No. 11 Nadia Petrova and No. 14 Maria Kirilenko. Kerber was beaten by No. 28 Sorana Cirstea 6-4, 6-0. Petrova was ousted by No. 22 Jelena Jankovic 7-6 (7), 6-4.

Kirilenko lost to No. 21 Klara Zakopalova 6-2, 7-6 (4).

The sweltering sunshine was motivation to work quickly, but Sharapova needed nearly two hours to eliminate Vesnina. Both players struggled with their serve as they battled the island breeze, and both rued missed chances. Sharapova converted only four of 18 break points.

When Vesnina finally sailed a shot long to lose the opening set, Sharapova screamed and shook her fist at the ball, as though trying to intimidate it. The gesture seemed to work, and she claimed the second set more easily.

"It was a matter of patience," Sharapova said. "In situations like this where it's tough and it's hot, it kind

of levels out the game a little bit, and with the windy conditions you have to be a bit more patient. That was really important today."

Vesnina fell to 1-18 against top-five players.

Sharapova seeks to become only the third woman to win Indian Wells and Key Biscayne back to back. She beat Caroline Wozniacki in the Indian Wells final a week ago and has a record of 16-2 this year.

She has lost Key Biscayne finals to Kim Clijsters, Svetlana Kuznetsova, Victoria Azarenka and Agnieszka Radwanska. Her history at the tournament actually dates back even further — to grade school, when her family lived Bradenton, Fla., and would attend matches as spectators. □



Maria Sharapova, of Russia, waves after defeating Elena Vesnina, also of Russia, 6-4, 6-2, during the Sony Open tennis tournament, Sunday, March 24, 2013, in Key Biscayne, Fla.

(AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)

point without hitting a shot. That put Sharapova ahead to stay, and she beat fellow Russian Elena Vesnina on a muggy, 85-degree Fahrenheit afternoon at the Sony Open, 6-4, 6-2.

The No. 3-seeded Sharapova moved into the fourth round, eager to fill one of the few holes in her resume. While she completed a career Grand Slam last year, she has never won Key Biscayne, losing the finals in 2005, '06, '11 and '12.

"It's in the back of my mind," she said. "It's one of the biggest tournaments for us, and it's one that I have been the most consistent at, being in four finals, but yet not winning it. I would definitely love to go a step further here."

game," Sharapova said. "It was a really long one. I was ready for a water break."

All told, Sharapova benefited from eight double-faults by the No. 29-seeded Vesnina, and erased eight of the nine break points she faced.

Lauren Davis of the United States lost to No. 32-seeded Alize Cornet at the peak of the heat, and their 2 1/2-hour match left both players so exhausted they were taken off the court in wheelchairs. Davis also required treatment in the third set after being stung by a wasp.

Both players later said they were fine. Cornet won 2-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Top-ranked Novak Djokovic, seeking his fourth Key

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Group supremacy at stake in World Cup qualifying

JEROME PUGMIRE

AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — Group supremacy will be on the line in World Cup qualifying when reigning world and European champion Spain travels to play France and England goes to Montenegro in Tuesday's standout games. The teams currently in first place were not expected to be, with France two points clear of Spain and England lagging behind Montenegro by the same margin.

"It will be a difficult match but we shouldn't have any apprehension," France coach Didier Deschamps said. "We will take the battle to them."

After Tuesday's critical games, both England and Spain could be five points adrift and facing the prospect of a playoff to reach next year's World Cup.

Elsewhere, teams like the Netherlands, Russia and Germany can already hear the Samba beats of Brazil as they hold comfortable leads in their qualifying groups.

Most teams preparing to face Spain struggle to come up with a successful game plan, but this time it's the Spanish who

are uneasy after slipping to 1-1 home draw with Finland on Friday and losing the Group I lead to France, which beat Georgia 3-1.

"The squad is angry and we accept the criticism," Spain defender Gerard Pique said. "But we still have margin to make it right."

After recording 24 straight wins in qualifiers dating back to 2007, Spain has been held to consecutive 1-1 home draws and heads to Stade de France with a point to prove.

"The result is a disaster. Now we face France with everything on the line," Spain's all-time leading scorer David Villa said. "We have to go to France looking to win."

Coach Vicente del Bosque hopes to have playmaker Xavi Hernandez back from a nagging muscle problem, and Xabi Alonso returns in midfield. But he will be without attacking midfielder David Silva through suspension and left back Jordi Alba who has a thigh injury. France drew 1-1 away to Spain last October thanks to Olivier Giroud's last-gasp headed equalizer and dominated the second half — a rare feat

against the Spanish. "Tuesday will be a completely different game," France midfielder Blaise Matuidi said. "They will be

destruction of San Marino that felt like a training match as the players shared the goals. Montenegro had to fight much



French soccer team coach Didier Deschamps addresses reporters during a press conference in Paris. Didier Deschamps has called up teenage Juventus midfielder Paul Pogba for World Cup qualifiers against Georgia and reigning European and world champion Spain. France plays Spain on March 26.

(AP Photo/Remy de la Mauviniere)

even more motivated after their result against Finland." England warmed up for Montenegro with an 8-0

harder, needing a late winner from Juventus forward Mirko Vucinic to scrape a 1-0 win at Moldova.

"It would be a great lift to win on Tuesday, but if we don't get it I won't be getting the spade out to dig a grave for the team," England coach Roy Hodgson said. "There are 15 points to play for and the team is capable of getting a large number of those points to see us through."

Hodgson welcomes back midfielder Steven Gerrard and left back Ashley Cole, who were rested against San Marino, but will be without Gary Cahill and Theo Walcott due to injury. Jermain Defoe staked his claim for a starting place after scoring twice on Friday. Ukraine and Poland are both six points behind England in Group H, with Montenegro leading the way with 13 points. Ukraine faces Moldova and Borussia Dortmund striker Robert Lewandowski will be looking forward to target practice as Poland faces San Marino. Group A is much tighter, with Belgium and Croatia level on 13 points. Croatia has the tougher game away to Wales — which will be relying on Gareth Bale to continue his scoring spree — while Belgium hosts struggling Macedonia. Serbia faces last-place Scotland in the other game.

Elsewhere, the Dutch and the Germans are five points clear of Hungary and Sweden, respectively, in their groups while Russia has won every match so far and are four ahead of Israel and Portugal despite playing a game less.

Germany, which has played one game more than Sweden in Group C, hosts Kazakhstan having just beaten the Kazakhs 3-0 away from home.

"I believe our task has to improve our game further and to find ourselves more as a team," said Germany midfielder Sami Khedira. Germany will be without midfielders Julian Draxler (concussion) and Bastian Schweinsteiger (suspension). Striker Mario Gomez and defender Benedikt Hoewedes are nursing thigh problems but are in the squad. □

Heat win 26th straight, top Bobcats 109-77

TIM REYNOLDS

The Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — LeBron James and company put on quite a show for some of the biggest names in sports on Sunday night.

James finished with 32 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds, Chris Bosh added 15 points and the Miami Heat won their 26th straight game, cruising to a 109-77 victory over the Charlotte Bobcats.

The world's best were court-side in Miami. Novak Djokovic, the top-ranked men's tennis player. Wladimir Klitschko, the world heavyweight boxing king. Rory McIlroy, who sits atop the golf rankings for at least one more night.

And James responded with another sterling performance, making 11 of 14

shots while helping Miami move within seven wins of matching the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers for the league record of 33 in a row.

Norris Cole scored 15 and Ray Allen added 14 for the Heat, who played without Dwyane Wade, held from the lineup because of right knee soreness that the

team believes is minor.

After overcoming yet another slow start, Miami begins a four-game road trip in Orlando on Monday, a swing that will also take the Heat to Chicago, New Orleans and San Antonio.

Charlotte led by 11 in the early going and was within five in the third quarter, but two huge spurts by the Heat were more than enough to put the game away.

Miami used a 31-6 run in the first half to erase the deficit, and a 26-5 blitz in the second half finished the job.

Kemba Walker led Charlotte with 20 points, and Gerald Henderson had 18. James departed with about 8 minutes left, after perhaps the highlight of the night. □



Miami Heat's LeBron James (6) and Shane Battier (31) block Charlotte Bobcats' Jeffrey Taylor (44) during the second half of a NBA basketball game in Miami, Sunday, March 24, 2013. The Heat won 109-77.

(AP Photo/J Pat Carter)

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Indiana holds off Temple 58-52 to reach Sweet 16

Continued from Page 17

Indiana, with its sights set on a sixth national championship, will play No. 4 seed Syracuse in the regional semifinals on Thursday in Washington, a rematch of the classic 1987 title game won by the Hoosiers. Wyatt scored 31 points to lead the Owls (24-10), who for 37 minutes gave top-

After Oladipo's long 3 put the Hoosiers up 56-52, Indiana had to buckle down on Wyatt, the Atlantic 10's Player of the Year. Wyatt was way off with a 3-pointer from the right wing with six seconds left and Indiana's Christian Watford grabbed the rebound and was fouled. With his hands on his hips, Wyatt walked dejectedly

trailing 52-50, hit two free throws to seal the win, the red-and-white-clad Indiana faithful relaxed and celebrated much the way Big Ten brethren Ohio State did earlier, when Aaron Craft's 3-pointer in the final second beat Iowa State and pushed the Buckeyes ahead in the West Regional.

Wyatt nearly turned this tournament into his national coming-out party. Despite playing with an injured left thumb, Wyatt, who also scored 31 in the opener against North Carolina State, gave the Hoosiers fits. With the score tied at 52-all, he broke free from Oladipo, but missed a 3-pointer and Indiana got

the rebound. Oladipo was fouled, and during a stop in action, Wyatt stared at the ball at his feet and yelled in frustration. Oladipo split a pair of free throws, but he was able to keep the ball from Wyatt on Temple's next trip, which ended when Rhalir Hollis-Jefferson's contested shot missed everything. □



Iowa State forward Georges Niang (31) and guard Korie Lucious, top, struggle with Ohio State guard Aaron Craft for a loose ball in the first half of a third-round game of the NCAA college basketball tournament, Sunday March 24, 2013, in Dayton, Ohio. (AP Photo/Al Behrman)

seeded Indiana all it could handle before collapsing when it mattered most. "We competed really hard," Wyatt said. "We battled. A couple plays here and there, we win. It was just a tough battled game, and they came out on top." Oladipo, who drew the assignment of chasing Wyatt around the floor and needed plenty of help from his teammates, scored 16 and Cody Zeller added 15 for the Hoosiers, the regular-season Big Ten champs. "If they were in our league, they'd be fighting for a championship too," Crean said. "I don't think there's any doubt about that. They're that good."

up the floor as Dayton Arena rocked and the senior pounded his chest. The Hoosiers' heartbeats finally slowed. On Saturday, Gonzaga became the first No. 1 seed to be knocked off and, until Wyatt's miss, Indiana was in danger of zigging with the Zags. Instead, Indiana will pack up and head to the nation's capital and a homecoming for Oladipo, who is from Upper Marlboro, Md. The junior will get to play in front of family and friends. Most importantly, he'll get to play. "It's a great feeling," Oladipo said. "I'm just glad that we're going." After Watford, who earlier made a huge block on Anthony Lee with Indiana

ATENCION

CAP Compania Arubano di Petroleo N.V. ta informa publico en general cu e compania REPSOL lo haci un investigacion di exploracion sismico den lama rond di Aruba.

- E exploracion sismico aki ta tuma luga den cumplimiento di un contract entre REPSOL y CAP a base di articulo 3 y 4 di e "Petroleumverordening zeegebied Aruba".
- E investigacion sismico lo cuminsa dia 15 di februari 2013 y lo dura mas of menos 40 dia.
- E barco sismico SR/V VANTAGE lo rastra un kabel cu un largura di 6 kilometer pa 9 kilometer y un diameter di 6 centimeter na un profundidad di 8 meter pa 10 meter bao di awa.
- Dos otro barco di apoyo OMS RESOLUTION y ELIZABETH-C lo duna sosten logistico na e operacionnan di e investigacion y lo mantene comunicacion cu barconan den e area.
- Tur actividad lo ta na un distancia di mas di 3 kilometer for di costa.
- CAP N.V. ta haci un peticion na tur doño di barco pa coopera pa e investigacion por tuma luga na un forma sigur y adecuado.

CAP Compania Arubano di Petroleo N.V. brings to the attention of the public in general that the company REPSOL will be conducting a seismic exploration survey offshore Aruba.

- This seismic survey is conducted in fulfillment of a contract between REPSOL and CAP in accordance with articles 3 and 4 of the Petroleum Ordinance offshore Aruba.
- The seismic survey will start the 15th of February 2013 and will have a duration of 40 days approximately.
- The seismic vessel SR/V VANTAGE will tow a submarine cable of 6 - 9 kilometers with a diameter of 6 centimeter at a depth of 8 - 10 meters below sealevel.
- Two support vessels OMS RESOLUTION and ELIZABETH-C will give logistical assistance to the operations during the seismic survey and will maintain communications with other ships in the area.
- All seismic acquisition will be conducted at a distance of more than 3 kilometer from the coast.
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Joe Weider, fitness mentor to Schwarzenegger, dies

JOHN ROGERS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Joe Weider, a legendary figure in bodybuilding who helped popularize the sport worldwide and played a key role in introducing a charismatic young weightlifter named Arnold Schwarzenegger to the world, died Saturday at age 93.

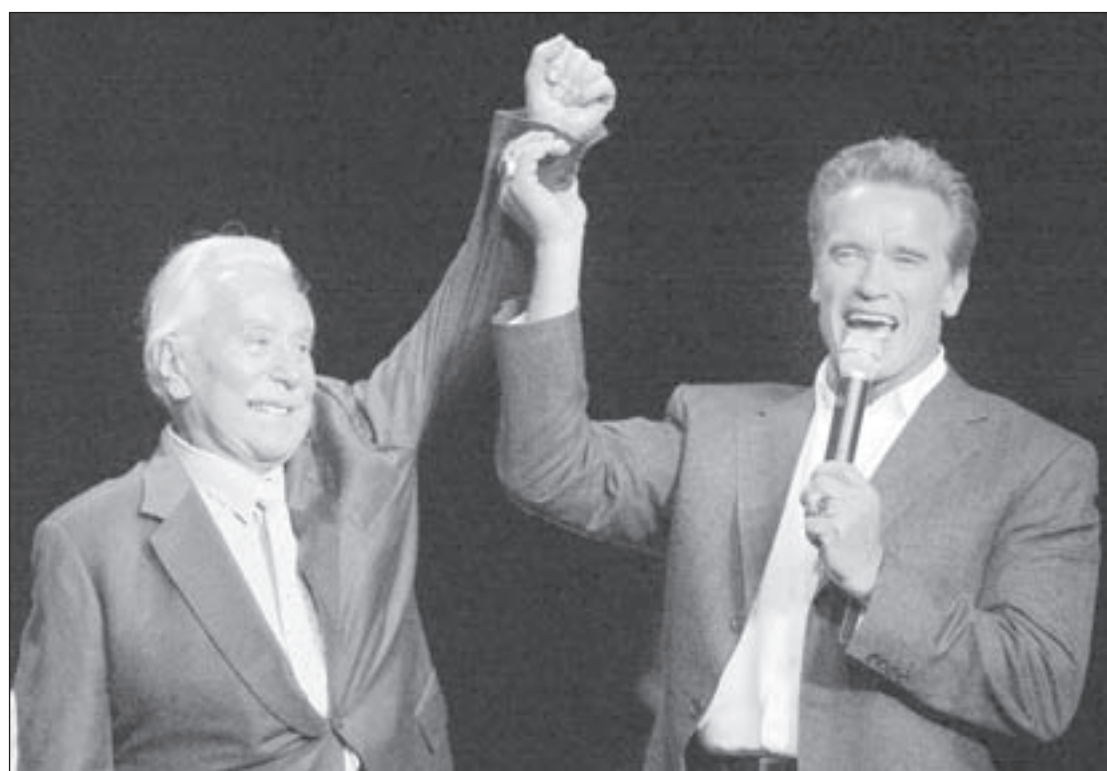
Weider's publicist, Charlotte Parker, told The Associated Press that the bodybuilder, publisher and promoter died of heart failure at his home in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley.

"I knew about Joe Weider long before I met him," Schwarzenegger, who tweeted the news of his

old friend's death, said in a lengthy statement posted on his website. "He was the godfather of fitness who told all of us to be somebody with a body. He taught us that through hard work and training we could all be champions."

A bodybuilder with an impressive physique himself, Weider became better known in later years as a behind-the-scenes guru to the sport.

He popularized bodybuilding and spread the message of health and fitness worldwide with such publications as Muscle & Fitness, Flex, and Shape. Schwarzenegger himself is the executive editor of Muscle & Fitness and Flex.



This Oct. 25, 2003 file photo shows then California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, right, raising the arm of Joe Weider, the creator of Mr. Olympia Bodybuilding competition, during the 39th annual Mr. Olympia event in Las Vegas. Weider, the legendary bodybuilding impresario Arnold Schwarzenegger has often cited as his key mentor, died Friday, March 22, 2013, at age 93.

(AP Photo/Eric Jamison)

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He created one of bodybuilding's pre-eminent events, the Mr. Olympia competition, in 1965, adding to it the Ms. Olympia contest in 1980, the Fitness Olympia in 1995 and the Figure Olympia in 2003.

He also relentlessly promoted Schwarzenegger, who won the Mr. Olympia title a then-record seven times, including in 1980 and every year from 1970 through 1975.

"Every sport needs a hero and I knew that Arnold was the right man," he once said.

Weider brought Schwarzenegger to the United States early in his career, where he helped train the future governor of California as well as aided him in getting into business. Schwarzenegger also said Weider helped land him his first movie role, in the forgettable film "Hercules in New York," by passing him off to the producers as a

German Shakespearean actor.

"Joe didn't just inspire my earliest dreams; he made them come true the day he invited me to move to America to pursue my bodybuilding career," the actor said in his statement. "I will never forget his generosity. One of Joe's greatest qualities is that he wasn't just generous with his money; he freely gave of his time and expertise and became a father figure for me."

Weider also mentored numerous other bodybuilders. Born in Canada in 1919, Weider recalled growing up in a tough section of Montreal.

Just like the apocryphal tale of the skinny kid who starts working out after a bully kicks sand in his face, Weider said he was indeed a small, skinny teenager picked on by bullies when he came across the magazine Strength.

He had actually tried to join a local wrestling team, he said, but was turned down by the coach who feared he was so small he'd be hurt.

Inspired instead by the magazine, he built his own weights from scrap parts found in a railroad yard and pumped them relentlessly.

Word of his efforts got around and he was eventually invited to join a weightlifting club.

"When I saw the gym, saw the guys working out, supporting one another, I was mesmerized," he recalled. He won his first bodybuilding contest at age 17, and soon after began to publish his first magazine, Your Physique.

Later he started a mail-order barbell business, and in 1946 he and his younger brother staged the first Mr. Canada contest at Montreal's Monument National Theater. □



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The cash register rings its last sale

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Ka-ching! The cash register may be on its final sale.

Stores across the U.S. are ditching the old-fashioned, clunky machines and having salespeople — and even shoppers themselves — ring up sales on smartphones and tablet computers.

Barneys New York, a luxury retailer, this year plans to use iPads or iPod Touch devices for credit and debit card purchases in seven of its nearly two dozen regular-price stores. Urban Outfitters, a teen clothing chain, ordered its last traditional register last fall and plans to go completely mobile one day. And Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer, is testing a "Scan & Go" app that lets customers scan their items as they shop.

"The traditional cash register is heading toward obsolescence," said Danielle Vitale, chief operating officer of Barneys New York. That the cash register is getting the boot is no surprise. The writing has been on the wall for a long time for the iconic machine, which was created in the late 1800s. The register was essential in nearly every retail location by 1915, but it now seems outdated in a world in which smartphones and tablets increasingly are replacing everything from books to ATMs to cameras. Stores like smartphones and tablets because they take up less floor space than registers and free up cashiers to help customers instead of being tethered to one spot. They also are cheaper: For instance, Apple Inc.'s iPads with accessories like credit card readers can cost a store \$1,500,

compared with \$4,000 for a register. And Americans increasingly want the same speedy service in physical

stores that they get from shopping online.

"Consumers want the retailer to bring the register

to them," said Lori Schafer, executive adviser at SAS Institute Inc., which creates software for major retailers. J.C. Penney, a mid-price department-store chain, said the response by customers has been great since it started rolling out iPod Touch devices late last year in its 1,100 stores. The goal is to have one in the hands of every salesperson

by May. The company said that about a quarter of purchases at its stores nationwide now come from an iPod Touch. ks

On a recent Thursday afternoon at a Penney store in the Manhattan borough of New York City, Debbie Guastella, 55, marveled after a saleswoman rang up three shirts she was buying on an iPod Touch. □



In this Friday, Feb. 15, 2013, photo, a sales staff member at Barneys New York uses an iPod Touch to help a customer make a purchase, in New York.

Associated Press

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Economic Reports For This Week

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REPORTS

Economic data to be released include durable goods for February, the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller housing price index for January, new home sales for February and consumer confidence for March (Tuesday); pending home sales for February (Wednesday); weekly jobless claims, fourth-quarter gross domestic product (revised) and the Chicago PMI for March (Thursday); and personal income and spending for February and the Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan consumer sentiment index for March (Friday).

U.S.

On Monday, the Supreme Court will hear arguments on whether drug companies and makers of generics are engaged in so-called pay-for-delay anti-competitive practices; a trial is scheduled to begin in Sacramento, Calif., on whether the city of Stockton can continue its bankruptcy case; and New York state and Irving Picard, the trustee liquidating Bernard Madoff's firm, will be in court over their separate lawsuits against J. Ezra Merkin, who was accused of funneling investments to Madoff's Ponzi scheme.

On Tuesday, Apple and Samsung will ask an appeals court to overturn a ruling that they reveal financial information they want to keep confidential. On Wednesday, a bankruptcy judge plans to rule on final approval of the combination of American Airlines and US Airways, and Pinnacle Foods, owned by the Blackstone Group, plans to price its initial public offering.

On Thursday, bond markets close early, at 2 p.m. On Friday, financial markets are closed in the U.S. in observance of Good Friday. □

Wall Street Week Ahead: Exodus from bonds? Not with numbers like these!

MARK JEWELL
MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writers

Market pros call it the Great Rotation. That's the long-awaited scenario when investors take their money out of bonds and sink it into stocks.

It was the buzzword this month when the Dow Jones industrial average reached a record high. The idea was that investors were confident enough in the economy to shed their

used as a parking spot for cash, according to EPFR Global.

"The expectations of a big exodus from bonds are way overblown," says David Santschi, CEO of TrimTabs Investment Research, a fund-tracking firm.

A stock market crash and recession have made bonds especially appealing since 2008, when the nation was in the throes of the financial crisis. The abundance of buyers has

March 5 and kept climbing. It's up nearly 11 percent this year and 122 percent from its bottom in March 2009. The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index is up 9 percent and is close to breaking its own record.

Investors added \$8 billion to U.S. stock funds and exchange-traded funds in February. And they're putting in more cash this month, as \$12 billion flowed into stock funds and ETFs through Tuesday, accord-

them, according to Strategic Insight

Pension funds, company-sponsored retirement plans and other institutional investors are typically the largest contributors to daily stock fund flows. But individuals also have been moving in recently, according to EPFR Global.

Richard Peterson, a psychiatrist and founder of MarketPsych, which advises banks and big money managers, says news coverage of the Dow's run is likely luring people who had remained wary of stocks since the financial crisis in 2008. One fear gets replaced with another.

"It's the fear of missing out on a good thing," he says. "People are watching it go up without them."

David Savage, a 52-year-old manager of a demolition equipment company, is being cautious about stocks.

Savage, who lives in Naugatuck, Connecticut, makes regular contributions to an investment portfolio that includes stocks and bonds as well as real estate.

He believes the Dow could pass 15,000 by the end of the year — that's about 3.4 percent above its Friday level of 14,512. But he plans to see where the market is in June or July before significantly changing his stock holdings.

"If I still have that warm fuzzy feeling then, my investments will stay put," he says. "If not, I'll move to less volatile stock positions."

Stocks have pulled back slightly over the past week amid renewed concerns about Europe and the possibility of bankruptcy in the Mediterranean island nation of Cyprus.

At home, Congress and the White House continue to clash, unable to reach broad agreement to head off automatic spending cuts.

That's a key reason why Richard Shortt of Somerville, Massachusetts, is sitting tight with the stocks he owns rather than buying more. □



A board on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, shows the closing number for the Dow Jones industrial average earlier in the month, on Thursday, March 14, 2013. The index had rose for the tenth day in a row Thursday, gaining 83 points to close at 14,539, an increase of 0.6 percent. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

financial crisis fears and leave the safety of bonds. But it's not happening.

Money keeps flowing into bonds. Industry consultant Strategic Insight says U.S. bond mutual funds have attracted \$64 billion in cash in the first two months of the year, just below last year's pace of \$68 billion over the same period.

Stock mutual funds had net deposits of \$76 billion through February, according to the consultancy. While that is up sharply from \$14 billion a year earlier, the cash for stocks is not coming at the expense of bonds, according to more recent snapshots of investment flows.

Instead, investors are withdrawing from money-market funds, which are often

pushed bond prices up and sent yields lower, reducing interest payments to investors.

Even with low yields, bonds will continue to attract retiring baby boomers and others who want reliable income for daily expenses. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note — a benchmark — is hovering under 2 percent. Other types offer higher yields. Investment-grade corporate bonds yield 3 percent and riskier "junk" bonds yield just under 6 percent.

Money-market funds, meanwhile, yield 0.02 percent.

Still, the Dow's record surge is drawing more attention to stocks.

The blue-chip index broke through its all-time high

ing to EPFR Global.

Bond funds, including ETFs, have pulled in nearly \$8 billion this month.

Much of the money flowing into stocks and bonds has come out of money-market funds. About \$32 billion has been pulled out of money funds this month, according to EPFR Global. Withdrawals that didn't go directly into stock or bond mutual funds could have gone into bank accounts, covered daily expenses or been used for other needs. Investors also could have used the money to buy stocks or bonds directly rather than through funds.

If the money keeps flowing, this would be the first year since 2006 that more cash was invested in U.S. stock funds than withdrawn from

Report: Dell likely to receive more takeover bids

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) - Michael Dell may face some competition in his effort to take over the computer maker he founded.

The Wall Street Journal reported on its website Saturday that buyout specialist Blackstone Group and activist investor Carl Icahn have both notified a special committee of Dell Inc.'s board that they are working on bids for the company. Michael Dell and a group of investors announced their bid, valued at \$24.4 billion, in early February. The Round Rock, Texas, company's board then set a 45-day period to allow for offers that might top that bid. That period expired Friday.

The Journal, citing unnamed sources, reported that the notification will allow Blackstone and Icahn four more days to develop their offers.

A Dell representative declined comment on the report. Blackstone and Icahn representatives did not immediately return calls from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Icahn and other investors have criticized the \$13.65 a share offer from the Michael Dell group as being too low. Several buyout scenarios tying Blackstone to Dell have been leaked to the media this week. Dell shares closed Friday at \$14.14, an indication that



Model Wakeema Hollis shows off the luxury Dell laptop 'Adamo' at a Consumer Electronics Show. The Wall Street Journal reported on its website Saturday that buyout specialist Blackstone Group and activist investor Carl Icahn have both notified a special committee of Dell Inc.'s board that they are working on bids for the company.

(Associated Press)

investors expected to see a higher bid. Some analysts have predicted Dell ultimately will be sold for \$15 to \$16 per share.

Southeastern Asset Management, Dell's second largest shareholder after Michael Dell, has asserted the company is worth closer to \$24 per share.

For its part, the four-member board committee maintains it's selling Dell at a fair price, one that reflects the dimming prospects for the PC industry as more technology spending shifts to smartphones and tablet computers.

Dell, the world's third-largest PC maker, has said Friday's deadline for competing offers could be extended if its board believes other suitors would benefit from more time to examine Dell's books and hash out other details.

The company has promised to provide extensive details about the sales process in regulatory documents that are supposed to be filed next week. □

Buyer found for UK Blockbuster stores

LONDON (AP) — The DVD and games rental store Blockbuster has been sold to restructuring specialists Gordon Brothers Europe after filing for a form of U.K. bankruptcy earlier this year. The company had gone

into administration — a form of bankruptcy in Britain — in January.

Blockbuster U.K. at the time had 528 stores. Hundreds of shops were shut in the weeks after its financial collapse.

Administrators for the company from accounting firm Deloitte said Saturday that Gordon Brothers Europe had purchased Blockbuster for an undisclosed sum, saving 2,000 jobs and 264 U.K. stores.

Blockbuster in Britain is a subsidiary of U.S.-based Blockbuster LLC, which itself was reorganized under American bankruptcy laws and then acquired in 2011 by Dish Network Corp. of Colorado. □

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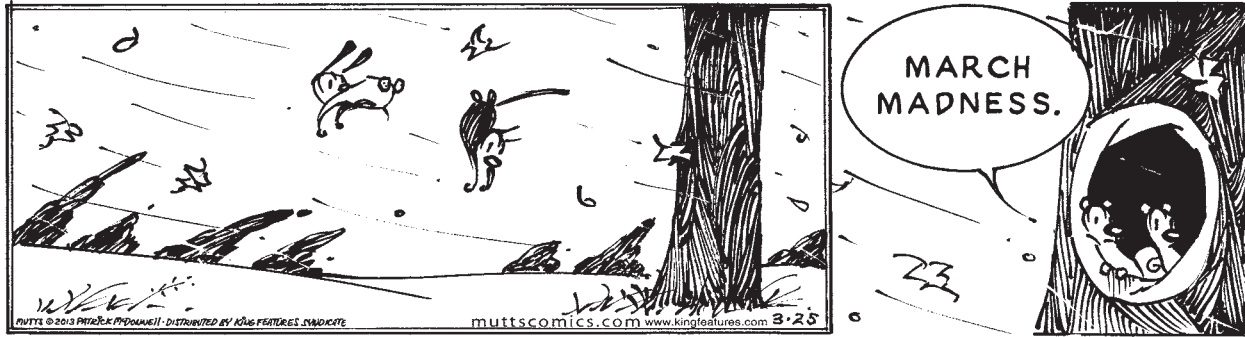
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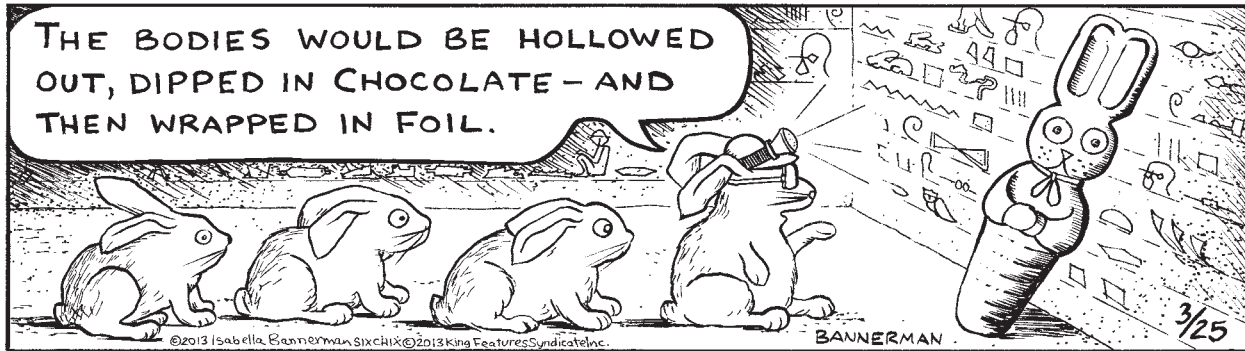


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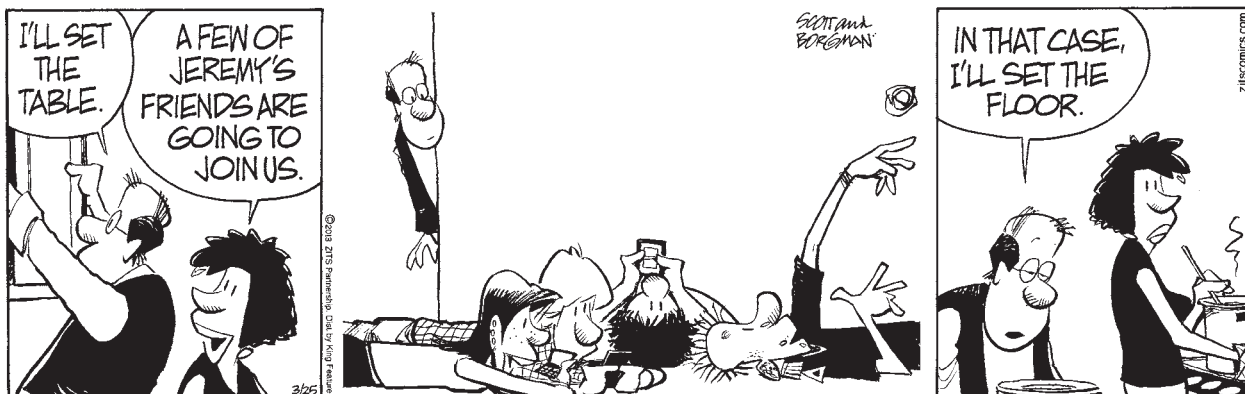
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Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	5	3				7	9	
			7	4	6			
		7				1		
9	1		3		5		2	7
6								3
3	7		6		9		1	4
		8				5		
			8	5	2			
	4	9				3	8	

Difficulty Level ★

3/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

1	3	9	4	8	2	7	5	6
8	6	5	1	9	7	3	2	4
2	4	7	6	3	5	8	1	9
7	5	2	8	4	9	1	6	3
4	9	6	7	1	3	2	8	5
3	8	1	2	5	6	9	4	7
9	1	4	3	6	8	5	7	2
6	2	3	5	7	1	4	9	8
5	7	8	9	2	4	6	3	1

ACROSS

- 1 Get-up-_-go; energy
- 4 Slips sideways on the road
- 9 Ginger cookie
- 13 Overwhelming defeat
- 15 Excessive
- 16 Robe of old Rome
- 17 Created
- 18 Purple shade
- 19 McClanahan and others
- 20 Sincere
- 22 Finales
- 23 Seldom seen
- 24 Tax-deferred acct.
- 26 Snobbish
- 29 Flowering
- 34 Lunch hours
- 35 _ new; just purchased
- 36 Scot's refusal
- 37 Drain problem
- 38 Jelly _; colorful candies
- 39 Coffee
- 40 Feel poorly
- 41 Bisect
- 42 Not as coarse
- 43 Doable
- 45 Travelers' lodges
- 46 Flightless Australian bird
- 47 First word in a warning
- 48 Dance at a bar mitzvah
- 51 Needlelike wood slivers
- 56 Rotten to the core
- 57 Gave the old _-ho to; fired
- 58 Regretted
- 60 Riot-control spray
- 61 Winslet and Mulgrew
- 62 Celebrity
- 63 Snow vehicle
- 64 On the ball
- 65 Pig's home

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13			14		15					16			
17				18						19			
	20			21						22			
			23					24	25				
26	27	28				29	30			31	32	33	
34					35					36			
37					38					39			
40				41						42			
43			44						45				
			46					47					
48	49	50			51	52	53				54	55	
56					57					58		59	
60					61					62			
63					64					65			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/25/13

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

DOWN

- 1 Upper limb
- 2 Ark builder
- 3 City fellow on a ranch
- 4 Hot and humid
- 5 Table utensil
- 6 Doing nothing
- 7 Twofold
- 8 Portions
- 9 Brook
- 10 Part of speech
- 11 Elderly
- 12 _ up; waive
- 14 Ripping
- 21 "Phooey!"
- 25 Singer Stewart
- 26 Remove the lid from
- 27 FDR's affliction
- 28 Places to swim
- 29 Courageous
- 30 Lois _; Superman's love
- 31 Foolish
- 32 Belly button
- 33 _ up; prepares
- 35 Alexander Graham _

BEAM	ADAPT	SPED			
AXLE	RECUR	CUBA			
BILL	NAMBY	PAMBY			
ATE	POLE	AMASS			
	GUILT	PUP			
ERASED	KISSER				
METER	TWICE	LAP			
MAID	THINK	MEMO			
ADO	SOUND	ROMPS			
	SNOUTS	PUREST			
	PIE	GREEN			
ASSET	FEED	TOM			
RHINESTONE	MANE				
CODE	AARON	AREA			
HEED	PITAS	CYST			

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3/25/13

- 38 Elderly Russian woman
- 39 Nervousness
- 41 That fellow
- 42 Times New Roman or Arial
- 44 Closed tightly
- 45 Trustworthy
- 47 Snorkeler
- 48 Skirt edges
- 49 Egg-shaped
- 50 Uncle Ben's _
- 52 Ring out
- 53 Tardy
- 54 Grooves
- 55 Chair or stool
- 59 Dishwasher cycle

Detroit

Continued from page 7

"Mr. Orr has to deal with the threat of bankruptcy. This is a more immediate issue and he has to make a decision fairly quickly whether to put the city into bankruptcy or not." Then he has to match revenue and spending. "This is the idea of downsizing the city so that the costs more closely match the amount Detroit brings in," Henning said. "On the revenue side, something has to be done to stabilize the tax base. That's all easier said than done and will take years, probably well beyond Mr. Orr's term." Pamela Amato, a former emergency financial manager for tiny Three Oaks in southwestern Michigan, said when she took the job in 2009, she did not jump straight into the finances. Three Oaks had a \$600,000 deficit and was nearly devoid of cash. It took less

than a year to turn the village around. Amato says listening to officials and residents was the key. "I wanted to get a sense from the people who lived there and who were in governance as to what was going on and used that information to chart my own course," she said. "I let them know that we either succeeded together or we failed together." Orr has met with people in Detroit's business and foundation communities, attending some dinners and receptions. He plans to commute between Detroit and his home in the Washington, D.C., area during the time it takes to fix Detroit. "I was very comfortably placed in my private law practice at my firm that I adored," Orr said, pointing out that he had been picked to go to open a Miami office before the offer to become Detroit's emergency manager came from "out of the blue." □

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Testing a new class of super-speedy computers

QUENTIN HARDY

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VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Our digital age is all about bits, those precise ones and zeros that are the stuff of modern computer code.

But a powerful new type of computer that is about to be commercially deployed by a major U.S. military contractor is taking computing into the strange, subatomic realm of quantum mechanics. In that infinitesimal neighborhood, common sense logic no longer seems to apply. A one can be a one, or it can be a one and a zero and everything in between — all at the same time.

It sounds preposterous, particularly to those familiar with the yes/no world of conventional computing. But academic researchers and scientists at companies like Microsoft, IBM and Hewlett-Packard have been working to develop quantum computers.

Now, Lockheed Martin — which bought an early ver-

sion of such a computer from the Canadian company D-Wave Systems two years ago — is confident

tum computing as part of its business. Skeptics say that D-Wave has yet to prove to outside scientists

heed and D-Wave expect, the design could be used to supercharge even the most powerful systems,

Ray Johnson, Lockheed's chief technical officer, said his company would use the quantum computer to create and test complex radar, space and aircraft systems. It could be possible, for example, to tell instantly how the millions of lines of software running a network of satellites would react to a solar burst or a pulse from a nuclear explosion — something that can now take weeks, if ever, to determine. "This is a revolution not unlike the early days of computing," he said. "It is a transformation in the way computers are thought about." D-Wave, a 12-year-old company based in Vancouver, has received investments from Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon.com, which operates one of the world's largest computer systems, as well as from the investment bank Goldman Sachs and from In-Q-Tel, an investment firm with close ties to the Central Intelligence Agency and other government agencies. □



D-Wave Systems' so-called quantum computer without its protective thermal canisters, at the company's lab in Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada. If it performs as expected, the company's quantum computer could be used to supercharge even the most powerful systems, solving some science and business problems millions of times faster than can be done today.

(Kim Stallknecht/The New York Times)

enough in the technology to upgrade it to commercial scale, becoming the first company to use quan-

that it has solved the myriad challenges involved in quantum computation. But if it performs as Lock-

solving some science and business problems millions of times faster than can be done today.

NASA: Flash reports consistent with single meteor

WASHINGTON (AP) — Reports of a flash of light that streaked across the sky over the U.S. East Coast appeared to be a "single meteor event," the U.S. space agency said. Residents from New York City to Washington and beyond lit up social media with surprise.

"Judging from the brightness, we're dealing with something as bright as the full moon," Bill Cooke of NASA's Meteoroid Environmental Office said Friday. "We basically have (had) a boulder enter the atmo-

sphere over the northeast." Cooke said the meteor was widely seen, with more than 350 reports on the website of the American Meteor Society alone.

Robert Lunsford of the society told USA Today "it basically looked like a super bright shooting star."

The sky flash was spotted as far south as Florida and as far north as New England, the newspaper reported.

Matt Moore, a news editor with The Associated Press, said he was standing in line for a concert in Philadelphia around dusk when he



In this image taken from video provided by Tom Hopkins of Hopkins Automotive Group, a bright flash of light, top center, streaks across the early-evening sky in what experts say was almost certainly a meteor coming down, Friday, March 22, 2013 in Seaford, Del. Bill Cooke of NASA's Meteoroid Environmental Office said the flash appears to be "a single meteor event." He said it "looks to be a fireball that moved roughly toward the southeast, going on visual reports."

(AP Photo/Hopkins Automotive Group)

saw "a brilliant flash moving across the sky at a very brisk pace... and utterly silent."

"It was clearly high up in the atmosphere," he said. "But from the way it appeared, it looked like a plane preparing to land at the airport."

Moore said the flash was visible to him for about two to three seconds, and then it was gone. He described it as having a "spherical shape and yellowish and you could tell it was burning, with the trail that it left behind."

Derrick Pitts, chief astron-

omer at Philadelphia's Franklin Institute, agreed that the sightings had all the hallmarks of a "fireball." Pitts said this one got more attention because it happened on a Friday evening — and because Twitter has provided a way for people to share information on sightings.

He said what people likely saw was one meteor — or "space rock" — that may have been the size of a volleyball and fell fairly far down into the Earth's atmosphere. He likened it to a stone skipping across the water — getting "a nice long burn out of it."

Pitts said experts "can't be 100 percent certain of what it was, unless it actually fell to the ground and we could actually track the trajectory."

But he said the descriptions by so many people are "absolutely consistent" with those of a meteor. □

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WHAT'S UP?

Tilda Swinton is performing 'art of sleeping' in NYC

NEW YORK (AP) — Actress Tilda Swinton is performing the art of sleeping at New York City's Museum of Modern Art. A museum spokeswoman says the "Moonrise Kingdom" star presented her one-person piece called "The Maybe" on Saturday. In "The Maybe," Swinton lies sleeping in a glass box for the day. The exhibit will move locations within the museum every time Swinton performs. There is no published schedule for the piece, which will occur about a half dozen more times through the end of the year. Swinton first performed the piece at the Serpentine Gallery in London in 1995. In 1996, she performed it in the Museo Barracco in Rome. She won an Oscar in 2008 for best supporting actress for her role in "Michael Clayton."

Band My Chemical Romance breaks up after decade-plus

NEW YORK (AP) — The chemistry is over: rock outfit My Chemical Romance has disbanded. The New Jersey-based band announced Saturday that "it has come time for it to end." The foursome thanked fans in a statement and said the experience was "a true blessing." My Chemical Romance's sound is a mix of alternative, punk rock and pop. Band members released their debut album in 2002 but really made a splash on the music scene in 2004 with the platinum-selling "Three Cheers for Sweet Revenge." It featured the top-40 hit "Helena." They followed that with another platinum effort in 2006, "The Black Parade," earning their first top-10 pop hit with the song "Welcome to the Black Parade." The group said they've "shared the stage with people we admire, people we look up to, and best of all, our friends." Group members included vocalist Gerard Way, bassist Mikey Way and guitarists Ray Toro and Frank Iero. Their last album was 2010's "Danger Days: The True Lives of the Fabulous Killjoys." □

'The Croods' catches fire with \$44.7M opening

CHRISTY LEMIRE

AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The caveman comedy "The Croods" left an indelible mark on the wall, opening at No. 1 with an estimated \$44.7 million.

The 3-D adventure from DreamWorks Animation

place with \$30.5 million was "Olympus Has Fallen," an action thriller from "Training Day" director Antoine Fuqua in which North Korean terrorists take over the White House. Gerard Butler, as a secret service agent, leads an all-star cast that includes Aaron Eckhart

as far as animated films for the whole family, and it will continue to be so as kids head out of school for spring break over the next couple of weeks.

"It's a terrific crowd-pleaser, it got an A CinemaScore and an A-plus with audiences under 18, which

million the studio had projected.

"To come in at the \$45 million mark, ahead of 'How to Train Your Dragon,' which was another terrific movie from DreamWorks Animation, is a great start to the spring holiday," Aronson said. "Olympus Has Fallen" also opened higher than expectations — much higher — given that FilmDistrict figured it would end up somewhere in the under-\$20 million range, said president of distribution Jim Orr. This is by far the biggest debut for the independent distributor, which was just founded in September 2010; the previous best was the \$14.3 million the "Red Dawn" remake made over last year's Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

"Millennium Films and Antoine Fuqua delivered a brilliant, action-packed, serious thriller with an all-star cast led by Gerard Butler, and the word of mouth seems to be terrific," said Orr. "It not only exceeded all our pre-weekend estimates, as the weekend has gone on, it's gotten better. This is the first action thriller in a while that's gotten an A-minus CinemaScore, so it's obvious that people are talking about it and enjoying it." □



This film publicity image released by DreamWorks Animation shows a scene from "The Croods." (AP Photo/DreamWorks Animation)

and 20th Century Fox features a voice cast including Nicolas Cage, Emma Stone and Catherine Keener. They play a prehistoric family encountering danger and strange new creatures when they're forced to find a new cave.

Opening strongly in second

as the president, Morgan Freeman and Angela Bassett.

"The Croods" has now made \$108 million worldwide, also opening this weekend in Russia, the United Kingdom, Germany and Spain. In the United States, it's the only game in town

leads me to believe a lot of kids loved the movie," said Anne Globe, chief marketing officer for DreamWorks Animation.

Chris Aronson, president of domestic distribution for 20th Century Fox, said "The Croods" had a stronger opening than the \$40

Depp, Stewart win at slimy Kids Choice Awards

DERRIK J. LANG

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Johnny Depp and Kristen Stewart avoided slime — mostly — while picking up blimp-shaped trophies at the Kids Choice Awards on Saturday.

The "Dark Shadows" star won as favorite movie actor at the 26th annual awards extravaganza, while the "Twilight" leading lady was selected as favorite movie actress and female butt-kicker.

"Dude, I was too much of a coward to accept this," she said embracing the slime slathered on the podium at the University of Southern California's Galen Center.

Pitbull and Christina Aguilera kicked off the silly

show with their song "Feel This Moment" and were joined by young backup dancers resembling the smooth-headed rapper and blonde diva. At the

end of their performance, Aguilera smashed a button, covering Pitbull and the dancers in the show's signature green goo.

That was just the beginning

of the celebrity sliming.

In one of his first acts as show host, "Transformers" star Josh Duhamel dumped the goop on Los Angeles Lakers player Dwight Howard. "I guess that's what we call a slime dunk!" Duhamel said. Sandra Bullock and Neil Patrick Harris caught a wave of the green stuff after a magic trick from the "How I Met Your Mother" co-star went awry.

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, who picked up the trophy for male butt-kicker, blasted a sumo-suited Nick Cannon and Duhamel with the goo. Duhamel said a record-breaking 350 million votes had been cast for this year's viewer-voted ceremony, which honors kids' favorites in film, music, sports and TV. □



Johnny Depp accepts the award for favorite movie actor for "Dark Shadows" at the 26th annual Nickelodeon's Kids' Choice Awards this past weekend in Los Angeles.

(Photo by John Shearer/Invision/AP)

'Book of Mormon' smashes 1-day box office record

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The seemingly unstoppable hit "The Book of Mormon" has broken another record — this time on the other side of the Atlantic. The quirky, profane musical opened Thursday night to some critical bashing, but the next day earned the highest one-day gross in London theater history. Between 10 a.m. and midnight Friday, 2,107,972 million pounds (\$3.2 million) worth of tickets were sold at the box office, according to final figures. By comparison, the Broadway version only earned \$1.5 million the day after it opened to rapturous reviews. "London can be tough," Scott Rudin, an influential theater and film producer who has steered "The Book of Mormon," said by phone Friday night after flying back from England. "American musicals tend to get knocked in the teeth in London, by and large.

It's a tougher place."

The show is now booked at the Prince of Wales Theatre until January, but Rudin predicts it may be in London for a long time to come.

The \$3.2 million windfall is technically higher than the current West End and Broadway one-day record of \$3.1 million that poured in the day after "The Producers" opened on Broadway in 2001, but that haul hasn't been adjusted for inflation.

"The Book of Mormon" by "South Park" creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone and "Avenue Q" composer Robert Lopez tells the story of two Mormon missionaries sent to spread the word in Uganda.

In New York, "The Book of Mormon" won nine Tony Awards in 2011, including best musical. The show also won a Grammy Award and recouped its \$11.4 million capitalization after just nine months. It remains the toughest ticket to get on

Broadway.

A production has opened in Chicago — it set a house record for the Bank of America Theatre and



The Book of Mormon creators Trey Parker, left, and Matt Stone pose for photographers on the red carpet as they arrive for the opening night of 'The Book of Mormon' at The Prince of Wales theatre in central London, Thursday, March 21, 2013.

(Photo by Joel Ryan/Invision/AP)

has been extended three times until September — and a national tour kicked off in August in Denver, where it has broken box office records as it crosses the country.

The tour is currently in Detroit — where it already has

broken the Fisher Theatre's house record for a standard eight-performance week — through the weekend, and then goes to

"tired of it after 10 minutes." The Guardian called it "mildly amusing."

Rudin said despite some grousing by London critics, the crowds have been enthusiastic, particularly the English fans of "South Park." Pent-up demand for the show has been roiling since the New York opening. And, unlike in New York, London audiences knew what to expect.

Though Rudin admits he was anxious in the days leading to the London opening, he recognized that the show's humor — jokes about African dictatorships, AIDS and poverty — would translate.

"The story and humor of 'The Book of Mormon' is deeply influenced by Monty Python's Flying Circus," he said. "I knew that would work over there."

The West End has just enjoyed its ninth successive year of record box office returns and attendance went up slightly in 2012 to 13.9 million. □

Art world gasps at sale of Moore statue

DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The massive bronze sculpture is formally known as "Draped Seated Woman," a Henry Moore creation that evoked Londoners huddled in air raid shelters during the Blitz.

To the East Enders who lived nearby, the artwork was known as "Old Flo," a stalwart symbol of people facing oppression with dignity and grace.

But now, Old Flo may have to go. The cash-strapped London borough of Tower Hamlets, one of the poorest communities in Britain, plans to sell the statue — estimated to be worth as much as 20 million pounds (\$30 million). Art lovers fear the sale of such a famous sculpture would set a worrisome precedent, triggering the sell-off of hundreds of lesser works housed in parks, public buildings and little local museums as communities throughout

Britain struggle to balance their budgets amid the longest and deepest economic slowdown since the Great Depression.

"If the sale of Old Flo goes

groups campaigning to block the sale. The proposal embodies a dilemma faced by many struggling households: Do you sell the family silver to get through



This undated photo shows the Henry Moore "Draped Seated Woman" statue, on loan to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park by the London borough of Tower Hamlets, in Wakefield, England. The cash-strapped London borough of Tower Hamlets, one of the poorest communities in Britain, plans to sell the statue, estimated to be worth as much as 20 million pounds (\$30 million).

(AP Photo/Jonty Wilde, Yorkshire Sculpture Park)

through, it can open the flood gates," said Sally Wrampling, head of policy at the Art Fund, the national fundraising charity for art and one of the

tough times? Tower Hamlets, where a recent study found that 42 percent of children live in poverty, is 100 million pounds in the red.

The sculpture hasn't even been in the borough for 15 years. It was moved to a sculpture park in the north of England when authorities tore down the housing project where it had been placed. The council says just the insurance alone for the massive bronze would be a burden to taxpayers. "We make this decision with a heavy heart," said Rania Khan, a local councilor who focuses on culture issues. "We have to make tough decisions."

Local authorities throughout the country are being hit by funding cuts as the central government seeks to balance the budget and reduce borrowing. Funding for local government will fall 33 percent in real terms between April 2011 and March 2015, according to the Local Government Association. The Institute for Fiscal Studies says the cuts tend to hit poor, urban areas like Tower Hamlets hardest, be-

cause their spending was higher to begin with.

Some 2,000 museums in Britain are local affairs. Bury Council sold a painting by L.S. Lowry in 2006, and Southampton City Council backed down from plans to sell an Auguste Rodin bronze in the face of public protest. The Museums Association has advised the Northampton council to hold off on the sale of an Egyptian funerary monument estimated to be worth 2 million pounds until more consultation can be done. The depth of the recession and the lack of hope that things will improve soon are fueling the debate. The latest figures from the Office for Budget Responsibility, an independent agency created in 2010 to advise the government, show the economy is growing more slowly than previously forecast, reducing tax revenue and prolonging the government's austerity program. □

Saving Kids From Guns

JOE NOCERA

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For nearly two months, my assistant, Jennifer Mascia, and I have been publishing a daily blog in which we aggregate articles about shootings from the previous day. Of all the stories we link to, the ones I find hardest to read are those about young children who accidentally shoot themselves or another child. They just break my heart. Yet Jennifer and I find new examples almost every day.

Partly, I react by thinking, "How can anyone be so stupid as to leave a loaded gun within reach of a small child?" But I also have another reaction. In 1970, Congress passed a law that resulted in childproofing medicine bottles. The Consumer Product Safety Commission regulates the paint used in children's toys. State laws mandate that young children be required to use car seats.

So why can't we childproof guns? In an age of technological wizardry — not to mention a time of deep sensitivity to the welfare of children — why can't we come up with a technology that would keep a gun from going off when it is being held by a child? Or, for that matter, by a thief using a stolen gun? Or an angry teenager who is plotting to use his parents' arsenal to wreak havoc in a mall?

It turns out — why is this not a surprise? — that such technologies exist. A German company, Armartix, will soon be marketing a pistol that uses radio frequencies that prevent a gun from being used by anyone except its owner. At the New Jersey Institute of Technology, the senior vice president for research and development, Donald Sebastian, has long spearheaded an effort to develop biometrics for "gun personalization," as it's called. Guns employing this technology fire only when they recognize the hand of the owner. There are others who have invented similar technologies.

Why aren't these lifesaving technologies in widespread use? No surprise here, either: The usual irrational opposition from the National Rifle Association and gun absolutists, who claim, absurdly, that a gun that only can be fired by its owner somehow violates the Second Amendment. Pro-gun bloggers were furious when they saw James Bond, in "Skyfall," proudly showing off his new biometrically protected weapon. They were convinced it was a Hollywood plot to undermine their rights.

Yet there is reason for at least some hope that the day when these technologies are in widespread use will soon be here. Last week, there were two important meetings about gun personalization technology. On March 13, in Washington, Attorney General Eric Holder Jr. met with several dozen advocates, including Sebastian and Stephen Teret, the co-director of the Center for Law and the Public Health at Johns Hopkins University. The purpose of the meeting was to get Holder up to speed on the technolo-



gies so he could make recommendations to President Barack Obama.

The following day, in San Francisco, Sandy Hook Promise, an organization founded by citizens of Newtown, Conn., publicly launched its "innovation initiative" in collaboration with some Silicon Valley venture capitalists and entrepreneurs. One of the leaders in the effort is the venture capitalist Ron Conway, who coincidentally threw a Christmas party on the day of the Newtown massacre. Gabrielle Giffords was among those who attended. Like so many others, Conway decided he had to do something about guns after Newtown.

The innovation initiative, which will make grants, and even award prize money for good ideas, includes an emphasis on gun personalization technology. A member of the group, Alan Boinus, who received a patent on a biometric technology back in 1994, has founded a company, Allied Biometrics, that is devoted to commercializing biometric gun technology. He has already begun a collaboration with Sebastian in New Jersey.

In classic Silicon Valley fashion, Boinus told me that the government has been hopeless and that innovation and the market itself would solve the problem. "The market will prove this out," he said. "People want to be responsible. People want safety." I agree with him that Congress has been hopeless and then some, unable to even work up the courage to vote on an assault weapons ban for fear of offending gun owners. But I'm not convinced that the market alone can create mass acceptance of this technology.

It took years, after all, for Congress to overcome the car industry's resistance to air bags, ultimately requiring a law that made air bags mandatory.

Thousands of lives could be saved each year if gun personalization technology became the law of the land. In mid-April, Rep. John Tierney, D-Mass., plans to introduce a House bill requiring that all guns include personalization technology within two years. Congress once cared enough about the safety of its citizens to pass laws about air bags and childproof bottles. We'll soon find out if it still cares enough about the safety of its constituents to make childproofing guns the law of the land. It should. □



The GOP'S Bachmann Problem



CHARLES M. BLOW

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The current intramural squabbling on the right is just too delicious for words. At least for nice words.

Sen. John McCain called the far-right darlings Sen. Rand Paul, Sen. Ted Cruz and Rep. Justin Amash "wacko- birds" this month. (McCain later apologized for that burst of honesty and candor.)

Ann Coulter used her Conservative Political Action Conference speech to take a shot at New Jersey's governor, Chris Christie, who was not invited to speak this year. Coulter quipped: "Even CPAC had to cut back on its speakers this year, by about 300 pounds." What a lovely woman. Also at CPAC, the half-term ex-governor of Alaska, Sarah Palin, took a whack at Karl Rove, challenging him to run for office himself. "Buck up or stay in the truck," she said with her usual Shakespearean eloquence. Rove shot back that if he were to run and win, he'd at least finish his term. Ouch.

Donald Trump took to Twitter recently to call the conservative blogger Michelle Malkin a "dummy" who was "born stupid." It's hard to know whom to side with when two bullies battle.

But all this name-calling, as fun as it is to watch, is just a sideshow. The main show is the underlying agitation.

The Republican Party is experiencing an existential crisis, born of its own misguided incongruity with modern American culture and its insistence on choosing intransigence in a dynamic age of fundamental change. Instead of turning away from obsolescence, it is charging headlong into it, becoming more strident and pushing away more voters whom it could otherwise win.

Andrew Kohut, the founding director of the Pew Research Center, pointed out in The Washington Post on Friday that the party's ratings "now stand at a 20-year low," and that is in part because "the outsize influence of hard-line elements in the party base is doing to the GOP what supporters of Gene McCarthy and George McGovern did to the Democratic Party in the late 1960s and early 1970s — radicalizing its image and standing in the way of its revitalization."

And too many of those hard-liners have a near-allergic reaction to the truth.

A prime example is Michele Bachmann, the person who convened the Tea Party Caucus in Congress and a Republican candidate for president last year.

She burst back on the scene with a string of lies and half-truths that could have drawn a tsk tsk from Tom Sawyer.

PolitiFact rated two of her claims during her CPAC speech last Saturday as "pants on fire" false. The first was that 70 cents of every dollar that's supposed to go to the poor actually goes to salaries and pensions of bureaucrats. The second was that scientists could have a cure for Alzheimer's in 10 years if it were not for "a cadre of overzealous regulators, excessive taxation and greedy litigators."

She also said during that speech that President Barack Obama was living "a lifestyle that is one

of excess" in the White House, detailing how many chefs he had, and so on.

The Washington Post gave that claim four Pinocchios, and pointed out that "during last year's GOP presidential race, Bachmann racked up the highest ratio of Four-Pinocchio comments, so just about everything she says needs to be checked and double-checked before it is reported."

And in a speech Thursday on the House floor, she said of the federal health care law:

"The American people, especially vulnerable women, vulnerable children, vulnerable senior citizens, now get to pay more and they get less. That's why we're here, because we're saying let's repeal this failure before it literally kills women, kills children, kills senior citizens."

Factcheck.org pointed out that her "facts" didn't match her hyperbole.

Last year The Washington Post quoted Jim Drinkard, who oversees fact-checking at The Associated Press, as saying, "We had to have a self-imposed Michele Bachmann quota in some of those debates."

It's sad when you are so fact-challenged that you burn out the fact-checkers.

People like Bachmann represent everything that is wrong with the Republican Party. She and her colleagues are hyperbolic, reactionary, ill-informed and ill-intentioned, and they have become synonymous with the Republican brand. We don't need all politicians to be Mensa-worthy, but we do expect them to be cogent and competent.

When all the dust settles from the current dustup within the party over who holds the mantle and which direction to take, Republicans will still be left with the problem of what to do with people like Bachmann.

And as long as the party has Bachmanns, it has a problem. □

Salvatore Ferragamo's Contemporary Style For The Modern Woman

- For Spring/Summer 2013



This Spring Summer 2013 the firmness of the grained natural calfskin and the distinction of classic and neutral colors are paired with Palladium finishing. The combination of two materials, bicolor calfskin and exquisite exotic leather, give a refined finish. An ultimate masterpiece of craftsmanship is the new Verve Light, a deconstructed ultra soft and ultra light model. A harmonious combination of natural looking vegetable leather of the highest quality. This self-closing bag is fitted with a detachable pocket. Precious pieces from the Spring Summer 2013 collection can be found in the Salvatore Ferragamo boutique in the Palm Beach Plaza Mall, walking distance from all the high rise hotels in Palm Beach. □

PALM BEACH - For Spring Summer 2013 the Gancio Zip collection, a symbol of style with a contemporary feel, introduces a new bag that is already a must-have, the Verve. Created to express the bold personality of a woman living her day with verve and absolute dynamism, it is designed to be with her on every occasion.

An exclusive mix of refined lines and modern cuts, top quality hides and handmade stitching, the Verve has a soft trapezoid structure obtained by assembling the bag directly on the mold which allows its silhouette to always keep its original shape. Thanks to the functional tubular handles it can be carried on the arm or as a shoulder bag. Capacious and available in three sizes, the Verve is closed by bold metal zippers enhancing the perfect combination of beauty and modernity, where aesthetic detailing, such as the Gancio, turn into functional elements.

